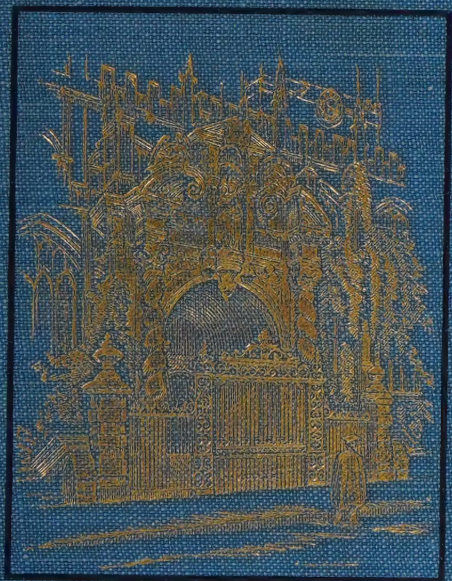


# THINGS SEEN IN OXFORD



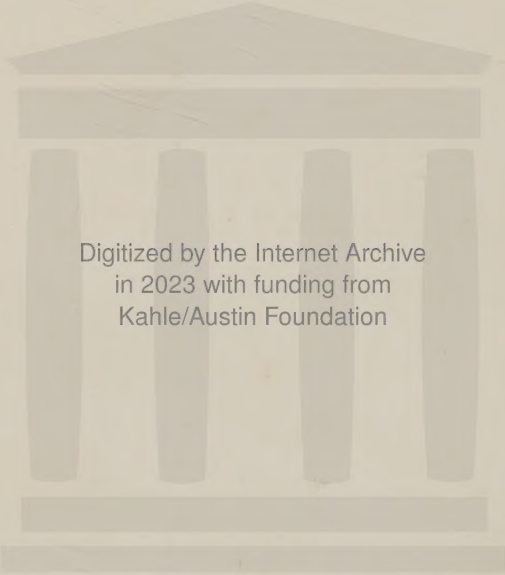
NORMAN J. DAVIDSON  
B.A. (OXON.)











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THINGS SEEN IN OXFORD









*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

#### MAGDALEN TOWER.

The building of the tower has been erroneously attributed to Wolsey. It contains ten bells, and on its summit on the 1st of May at 5 a.m. a hymn is sung, after which the bells are pealed.

# THINGS SEEN IN OXFORD

BY

NORMAN J. DAVIDSON, B.A. (OXON)

AUTHOR OF

"A KNIGHT ERRANT AND HIS DOUGHTY DEEDS,"

"VIGNETTES FROM LONDON LIFE OF DICKENS," &c., &c.

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OXFORD, PAST AND PRESENT



# Things Seen in Oxford

## CHAPTER I

### OXFORD, PAST AND PRESENT

TO try to imagine Oxford without its University is as easy as to imagine "Hamlet" without the Prince of Denmark. When we recall Oxford, we picture immediately a low-lying city of wide streets and stately buildings, venerable and mellow with age, and in most cases mercifully preserved from the "improving" hands of successive generations. To say that the history of Oxford is the history of its University is not correct, for the town was a place of some importance long before it became a centre of learning. Its strategic position made it so. Rude

## Things Seen in Oxford

traces of savages have been found in the ground now occupied by the new schools, and its many interlacing streams would naturally make it a favourite place for the prehistoric hunter. Succeeding generations have used it for their own purposes—for war, for trade, for learning—and each has left its mark. Lying in the heart of England, she was secure from the attacks of savage Northmen. Her military position, the command of the waterways, and of the main roads to the north and west, gave her a natural strength, and made her a place much to be desired. Such being her importance, it is not to be wondered that her early history should be punctuated with revelry, treachery, fire, and sword. William of Malmesbury tells how Sigferth and Morcar, the sons of Earngrim, came to this border-town to make terms of peace, and were treacherously slain at a banquet, and as for their followers—"Into the tower of St. Frideswyde they were driven, and as men



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, LOOKING EAST.





## Oxford, Past and Present

could not drive them thence, the tower was fired, and they perished in the burning." Here, a few years later (1035) the English and Danes again met, but with a happier result.

Oxford has proved singularly fatal to Kings, for the saintly Frideswide, daughter of King Didanus, after refusing marriage with King Algar, laid a curse upon it, and retired to a nunnery founded by herself on the site where the cathedral now stands. Harold Harefoot died here, but was buried at Westminster, where his body was not allowed to rest, for his enemies dug it up and probably threw it into the river. Henry III. braved the curse, but not with impunity, for he was defeated and taken prisoner by his barons at the Battle of Lewes. Edward I. seems to have broken the curse, for after riding up to the East Gate he turned tail, but subsequently attended a Chapter of Dominicans in the city.

## Things Seen in Oxford

The city had troublous times to go through before it became the seat of a Norman stronghold.

The tower is all that remains of the castle, and, judging from it, the whole fortification must have been extremely strong. It was built by Robert D'Oily, a follower of the Conqueror—in all probability at the expense and by the labour of the inhabitants of the town. Its position was well chosen, for it commanded all the roads and waterways for miles round, and traces are still seen of a former fortress which had occupied the same site. Within the walls Robert built the Church of St. George, of which only the crypt remains. By this act of piety we may suppose he wished to salve his conscience for his many acts of tyranny and oppression. On the site of the old castle the county gaol now stands. To Robert also is ascribed a bridge over the Isis, and the restoration of many ruined churches. He is also said to have built the tower of St. Michael's in



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

### THE CASTLE.

The Tower is all that remains of an impregnable fortress. It was built by Robert D'Oyley, a follower of William the Conqueror, in 1071.



## Oxford, Past and Present

the Cornmarket. It is a bare-looking edifice, and performed the double duty of church-tower and watch-tower. The old North Gate of the city here spanned the street. The rooms above it were long used as a prison. The gate derived its name, "Bocardo," from a term used in logic.

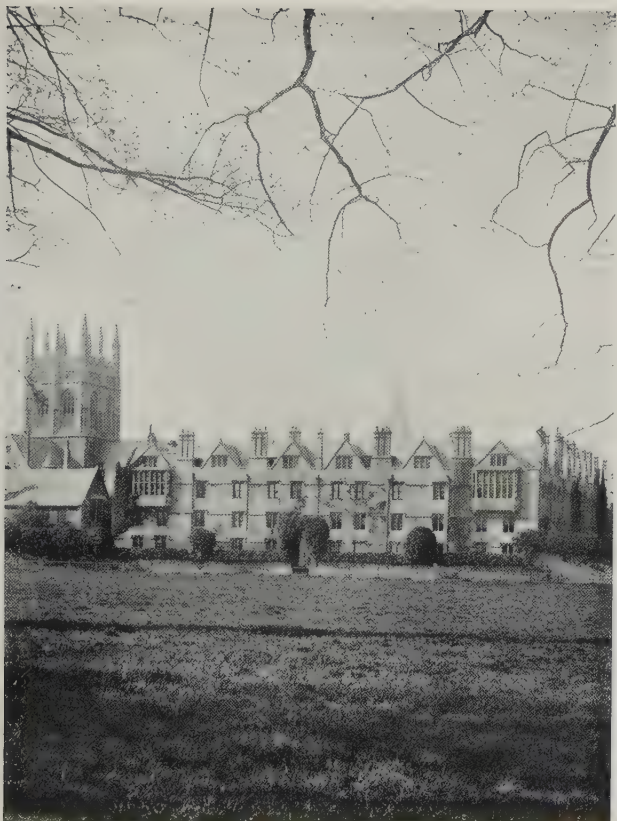
It was not until the thirteenth century that the college system had its beginning and statutes were framed. The founder of the system was Walter de Merton, who may have adopted the idea from the University of Paris. Hitherto the University had been merely a corporation of learned men struggling for existence with Jews, friars, and Papal Courts. Until she received benefactions, rents, and fines, her existence rested on but a very insecure foundation. The first recorded instance of a fine was in the early part of the thirteenth century, when the Papal Legate fined the burgesses of the town fifty-two shillings as compensation for the hanging of certain clerks. He also founded

## Things Seen in Oxford

the chest of St. Frideswide—the first of the kind—from which students might borrow on approved security.

Backed by the authority of the King and the Legate, the University obtained privileges calculated to humiliate the people of the town. This created bad blood, and led to the first serious “town and gown.” Several clerks swaggered into a tavern in Carfax, and while there assaulted the vintner. In a few minutes St. Martin’s bell was ringing, and St. Mary’s bell replied, and the arrows began to fly. “Gown” held their own stubbornly until “town” called in help from the neighbouring villages, when they gave way. As compensation the King granted the University “a most large charter, granting them the custody of the assize of bread, wine, and ale,” the supervising of measures and weights, and the sole power of clearing the streets of the town and suburbs.

At the end of the fourteenth century forest and moor still stretched to the gate



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

#### MERTON FROM THE FIELDS.

Merton is the oldest college in Oxford, and is the model on which the other colleges are founded.





## Oxford, Past and Present

of the city. Magdalen Bridge and tower did not yet exist. The tower was not built until the end of the fifteenth century—indeed, the hospital of St. John stood on the foundation of the present college. The tower of Merton had not long been built, and the spire of St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Frideswide, and the tower of New College, on the city wall, were the most prominent features, and the imposing "Broad" was then the city ditch. North of Beaumont Street there were spaces for archery, ball, and other sports, and where pikestaff and sword and buckler might be played. The times were rough, tempers were easily roused, and weapons within handy reach. But as the colleges increased they absorbed the small, irregular halls, and turbulent spirits were kept in better and firmer control. Learning, however, decreased under the rule of Lancaster.

The Renaissance, though full of interest, proves a period of change—a period of genial

## Things Seen in Oxford

warmth alternated by frosts and storms. Under Henry VIII. literature was encouraged, and Wolsey founded Christ Church, and Fox, Bishop of Winchester, Corpus Christi College. But religious strife came like a blight, and the promise of learning withered; foreign wars and the Wars of the Roses drained away her youthful sons; plague and war devastated the country. But under Colet and Erasmus the prospects of classical learning seemed fair enough. Wolsey was bursar of Magdalen, Corpus Christi College was founded in 1576 by Fox, and Brasenose College was added in 1509 by William Smith, Bishop of Lincoln, and Sir Richard Sutton, of Cheshire. Oxford was ringing with the clink of masons' chisels and hammers, and the streets echoed the rumble of the carts bearing quarried stone. But the Renaissance was too exotic a flower to find an abiding home in the rough, practical English nature; England and Italy are far asunder, and so it withered—killed, in



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford*

#### **DIVINITY SCHOOL.**

The roof with its elaborate stone groining and pendants will bear comparison with the best in England. Until the New Schools were opened the room was used for examinations. It now forms part of the Bodleian Library.



## Oxford, Past and Present

fact, by theology. So severe was the condemnation of anything that savoured of Popery or magic that libraries were rifled of their valuable contents, and priceless manuscripts were condemned to the fire for no other fault than that of containing strange devices or letters in red ink. Many were, however, very fortunately recovered, and put into the safe keeping of the Bodleian. In the time of Henry VIII. religious intolerance had from time to time shown itself, but in the reign of Edward VI. it revelled in destruction. The schools were empty—some even destroyed—and college plate was melted down, and the citizens exercised private rights on University property. Under Queen Mary literature was under much the same condition. Ridley and Latimer were burnt near Balliol College, while Cranmer, manacled, watched the tragedy from the prison in Bocardo.

The reign of Queen Elizabeth brought some relief, perhaps not much, although

## Things Seen in Oxford

Latin plays and Greek orations welcomed her when she visited the University in 1666.

It is interesting to study the earliest trustworthy map by Agas. Andrew Lang gives a graphic description of Oxford as it was then, which it may be interesting to quote. He says: "Let us enter Oxford by the Iffley Road in the year 1578. The way is not bordered, of course, by the long, straggling streets of rickety cottages which now stretch from the bridge half-way to Cowley and Iffley. The church called by ribalds 'the boiled rabbit,' from its peculiar shape, lies on the right. There is a gate in the city wall on the place where the road now turns to Holywell. At this time the walls still existed, and ran from Magdalen past 'St. Mary's College, called Newe,' through Exeter, through the site of Mr. Parker's shop, and all along the south side of Broad Street to St. Michael's and Bocardo Gate. There the wall cut across to the



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

THE ARCHWAY, NEW COLLEGE LANE.





## Oxford, Past and Present

castle. On the southern side of the city it skirted Corpus and Merton Gardens, and was interrupted by Christ Church. Probably if it were possible for us to visit Elizabethan Oxford, the walls of the five castle towers would seem the most curious features in the place. Entering the East Gate, Magdalen and Magdalen Grammar School would be familiar objects. St. Edmund's Hall would be in its present place, and Queen's would present its ancient Gothic front. It is easy to imagine the change in the High Street which would be produced by a Queen's, not unlike Oriel, in the room of the highly classical edifice by Wren. All Souls would be less remarkable; at St. Mary's we should note the absence of the 'scandalous image' of Our Lady over the door. At Merton the fellows' quadrangle did not exist, and a great wood-yard bordered on Corpus. In front of Oriel there was an open space with trees, and there were a few scattered buildings, such as Peckwater's Inn (on the site of Peck) and Canterbury

## Things Seen in Oxford

College. Tom quad was stately, but incomplete. Turning from St. Mary's past B.N.C. (Brasenose College) we miss the attics in Brasenose front; we miss the imposing Radcliffe; we miss all the quadrangles of the schools, except the Divinity School, and we miss the theatre. If we go down South Street, past Christ Church, we find an open space where Pembroke stands. Where Wadham is now—the most uniform, complete, and unchanged of all the colleges—there are only the open pleasancess, and perhaps a few ruins of the Augustinian priory. St. John's lacks its inner quadrangle, and Balliol, in the place of its new buildings, has its old delightful grove. As to the houses of the town, they are not unlike the tottering and picturesque old roofs and gables of King Street."

During this reign the Schools' quadrangle with the Great Gate of the five orders was built, and Wadham was added.

James was fond of visiting Oxford, and as



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

### THE CONVOCATION HOUSE.

Used for the transaction of University business, also for conferring degrees.



# Oxford, Past and Present

a consequence the corruptions of his Court extended to the students.

In 1606 a disturbing element arose in the University; William Laud, of St. John's College, preached a sermon which was considered to be decidedly pointing to Rome, and the divisions between Court and Puritans, which afterwards developed into Roundhead and Cavalier, began. Following the example of the Court, lovelocks were adopted, and drinking and gambling became fashionable. In 1625, soon after the accession of Charles I., the Parliament was driven from London to Oxford by the plague, and the House of Commons met in the Divinity School; but the plague was not to be so easily escaped, for it followed the Court to Oxford. Laud was a munificent patron of learning while he was Chancellor of the University, and endowed the University with many Greek, Chinese, Hebrew, and Latin manuscripts.

In the darkening years following 1636, the

## Things Seen in Oxford

King and Queen visited Oxford, and much of the beautiful old plate, presented by the benefactors, found its way to the melting-pot to supply his needs.

After the Battle of Edgehill the Court assembled at Oxford, which was then fortified; but after the Battle of Naseby, surrendered to Cromwell, and Presbyterians became the heads of the Houses.

The Restoration, however, held out hopes of better things, and the feeling of loyalty ran higher. The last Parliament to be held at Oxford, the last of James II.'s reign, was held in 1681. James II. attempted to usurp the prerogatives of the colleges, and, as a consequence, the Prince of Orange was welcomed as a deliverer. Feeling, however, changed, and became strongly Jacobite.

During the eighteenth century the apathy of the University was truly deplorable, and Hearne's commonplace books give us much amusing information about the Oxford of Queen Anne's time. He was a Master of



*Photo, Taunt*

**A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF OXFORD.**

Showing the New Schools, the High looking towards Carfax, and many of the Colleges,

*Oxford.*





## Oxford, Past and Present

Arts, but lost his post because he would not take what he called the "wicked oaths." According to him, politics were much discussed at that time, when the restoration of the schools was thought to be possible, although it would not be quite safe to express one's opinions. In his time many of the old buildings disappeared. He says : "It always grieves me when I go through Queen's College to see the roof of the old chapel next to the High Street, the area of which now lies open, the buildings being most of them all pulled down and trampled upon by dogs, as if the ground had never been consecrated ; nor do the Queen's College people take any care, but rather laugh at it when it is mentioned." The old refectory, too, a fine old structure that he used to admire, was also pulled down, and the authorities had a view to pull down the Chamber of Henry V. The melancholy state, however, to which Oxford was now reduced, was redeemed by the Wesleyan and Whitfield revolutions.

## Things Seen in Oxford

Many stories are told by that "Prince of Biographers," Boswell, of Dr. Johnson's advent at Pembroke. He found sliding on Christ Church meadow much more to his taste than a heavy lecture of a heavy tutor, and when "sconced twopence" for non-attendance at lecture, considered the fine a penny too dear as he estimated the worth of the lecture.

The nineteenth century presents a scene of intellectual activity not seen for long before, but there were several causes; perhaps the chief one, which started to life the whole of the country, was the Tractarian Movement, headed by Dr. Pusey. New regulations were laid down with regard to founders' benefactions. A new system of examination was inaugurated, and various new schools, giving scope to men with other bents than those of classics or mathematics, were introduced. In times past a man might take up a classical school only, but now a new era of specializing began. Fellows were no longer



*Photo, Tazant*

THE HALL, PEMBROKE COLLEGE.

*Oxford.*



## Oxford, Past and Present

compelled to celibacy, nor were Holy Orders any longer obligatory except in certain cases, and all the colleges were thrown open to Nonconformists. Women's colleges have been opened, new colleges have been erected, and there is much less restraint on the students, and much more sympathy and fellow-feeling between them and the authorities.



## COLLEGES AND HALLS



Entr. Gate of ST. MARY-THE  
VIRGIN.

THE PORCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.  
The University Church.



## CHAPTER II

### COLLEGES AND HALLS

**C**OLLEGES are organized societies independent of the University, although incorporated in it. They frame their own laws and draw up their own rules for internal government quite independent of outside interference. The college officers consist of the Head, Dean, and Fellows. The Heads of Colleges are known as Wardens, such as of Keble or Merton ; Principals, as of Hertford ; Provosts, as of Queen's and Oriel ; Masters, as of Pembroke ; Rectors, as of Exeter ; Presidents, as of Magdalen ; and the Dean of Christ Church. The scholars and fellows also are known by different names at different colleges : there are Postmasters of Merton, Demies of Magdalen, and Senior and Junior Students of Christ Church. The

## Things Seen in Oxford

senior and junior students correspond to fellows and scholars of other colleges.

The chief University officers are the Chancellor of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, to whom the authority of the Chancellor is delegated, and the Proctors. The Proctors are known as Senior and Junior, and are elected by the colleges in rotation. They are a relic of medieval times, when they represented the Northern and Southern "nations"—that is to say, the two divisions into which the body of students at that time divided themselves, those from the North of England and those from the South.

The administrative bodies are Convocation, consisting of members of the University not under the degree of M.A., of whom the great majority live in the country; Congregation, a smaller body consisting of resident members of the University, and the Hebdomadal Council, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the two Proctors, and eighteen members.

The approach to Oxford from the Great



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*  
**THE FOUNDER'S TOWER, CLOISTERS, AND CHAPEL OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE.**  
The Tower contains a magnificent state chamber over the gateway, with fine carving and painted windows, and a piece of tapestry representing the Betrothal of Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII.



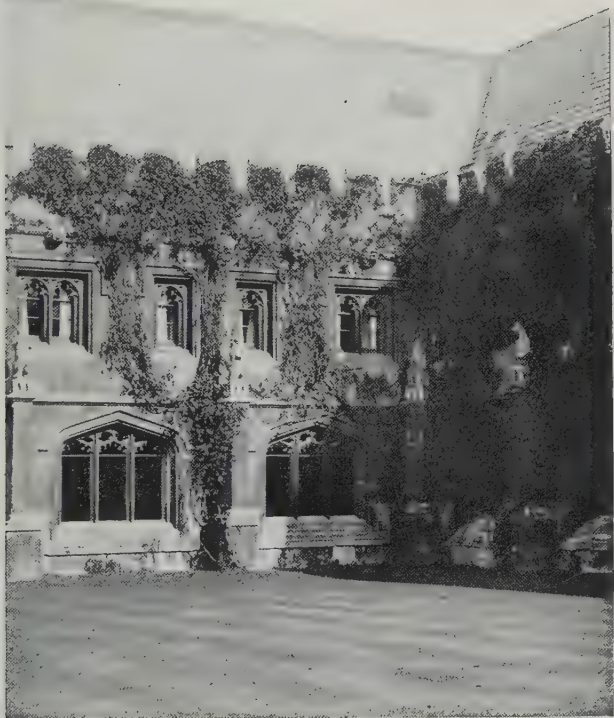
## Colleges and Halls

Western station is anything but imposing or impressive. One has to traverse squalid-looking streets before any place of interest is reached. This is unfortunate, as the first impressions are anything but favourable. When entering the town in the opposite direction—the old coach road, over Magdalen Bridge—the reverse is the case. A splendid view is obtained of the domes and spires of the city for miles before entering the town. It is true that before reaching Magdalen there are squalid streets, mostly given over to small tradesmen and lodging-house keepers, but one has before then gained a good impression.

Magdalen is, of course, by this road the first University building to be encountered. It was founded in 1458 by William Patten, of Waynflete, in Lincolnshire, and built between the years of 1472 and 1481. The fine tower is about 150 feet high, and contains ten bells. The college building consists of four quadrangles. Its grounds, covering many

## Things Seen in Oxford

acres, comprise the Water Walks and the famous Addison's Walk, running alongside one of the numerous branches of the Cherwell. In the quadrangle of St. John the Baptist there is a curious pulpit, from which sermons were preached to the people on St. John the Baptist's Day. These were discontinued from about 1760, but in 1896 they were again continued. The beautiful west doorway of the chapel is surmounted by statues of Mary Magdalen, John the Baptist, the founder, and others. The Muniment tower contains the archives, and the Founder's tower, which is really the great gate of the college, contains the beautiful banqueting-room lighted by oriel windows. The service in the chapel, by the provisions of the founder, has always been kept up to an extremely high state of efficiency, and is considered to be one of the best musical services in England. The windows are filled with some fine stained glass by Hardman, and over the altar is an altarpiece, "Christ bearing His Cross,"



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**MAGDALEN COLLEGE.**

*A corner of the Cloisters.*





## Colleges and Halls

by Ribalta. The hall contains some fine old panelling of the linen-fold pattern, and a screen of Jacobean work. The fine paintings of the founder and other celebrated people connected with the college adorn the walls. The kitchen is of great antiquity, and it may be the original kitchen of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist. The library consists of a valuable collection of books and illuminated manuscripts. A quaint custom is observed at five o'clock every first of May in the morning, when a Latin hymn is sung on the top of the tower by the surpliced choir. What the origin of the custom was we cannot say; it may be that it is a relic of pagan times, and the hymn may have been sung to the rising sun, though now it is to the Holy Trinity.

Opposite Magdalen are the Botanic Gardens, which were founded by the Earl of Danby in 1632 on the site of the ground formerly appropriated for a Jew's burial-ground, and originally called the Physic Garden.

## Things Seen in Oxford

It may safely be said that the view up the High Street, generally known as the "High," can be excelled by none, unequalled by few, in Europe. It is a wide, noble street, sweeping gently to the left until it reaches Carfax, flanked on either side by venerable and imposing buildings.

The first group of buildings that one comes across from Magdalen Bridge are the New Schools, which were opened in 1882. The architecture is that of the English Renaissance, and the architect was Mr. T. G. Jackson, R.A. It cannot be said, however, that the style is altogether in keeping with that of the older collegiate buildings. Before these schools were built the examinations used to be held in the old Divinity School. The examination rooms are fine spacious apartments, and when not in use for examinations are used for social reunions.

On the opposite side of the road is the older foundation, Magdalen School, which was founded between 1470 and 1480, but the



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

### THE NEW SCHOOLS.

These were opened in 1882 and are built in the style of the English Renaissance.



## Colleges and Halls

present building was erected as recently as 1850. Higher up, on the same side as Magdalen, is Queen's Lane, dividing Queen's College from St. Edmund Hall, irreverently called "Teddy's." The Hall is said to have been founded by St. Edmund le Rich ; but the buildings, as they are at present, were erected in the seventeenth century. St. Edmund's is the only Hall of any antiquity which is not now absorbed into a college, but it will not be long before it is incorporated with Queen's.

On the other side of Queen's Lane stands Queen's College, which was founded in 1340 by Robert of Eglesfield, chaplain of Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III., for the benefit of the natives of the North of England. Although the foundation is so old, the buildings do not date farther back than the seventeenth century. The classic front, with its cupola over the main gateway, was completed in 1756, from designs by Sir Christopher Wren. The chapel contains some old and

## Things Seen in Oxford

curious painted windows by Van Ling. There is a fine painting in the ceiling of the Ascension by Sir James Thornhill, and over the altar is a copy of Correggio's "Night." Over the screen there is a very good organ, and the college boasts of excellent musical services. The hall was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and on all the walls hang good portraits of benefactors and others. Unlike the other colleges, members are summoned to dinner by the sound of a trumpet, formerly blown by a tabarder, instead of a bell. The quaint old custom of bringing in on Christmas Day a boar's head to the accompaniment of a carol is still carried out. The story goes that one of the students, while walking in the country studying one of the works of Aristotle, was attacked by a boar, and that he saved his life by thrusting the volume down the boar's throat, with the remark, "Græcum est." Another quaint custom, too, there is on New Year's Day, when, after dinner, the



*Photo, Taunt*

**THE HIGH.**

On the right are Queen's and All Souls' Colleges, and St. Mary's Church. On the left is University College.

*Oxford.*





## Colleges and Halls

Senior Bursar presents each of those present "in hall" with a needle and thread, saying, "Take this and be thrifty," a play (*aiguille et fil*) on the word Eglesfield. The college possesses a very good library of between sixty and seventy thousand volumes, and a portrait of Henry V. as Prince of Wales. Among celebrities who have been members of the college are Edward the Black Prince, Henry V., John Wycliffe, and others. In the buttery are to be seen some extremely interesting pieces of old silver.

If the route down Queen's Lane is pursued, it will lead one, by way of New College Street, to William of Wykeham's magnificent foundation, New College, or Sainte Marie of Wynchester in Oxenford. It was founded in 1379 by William of Wykeham, then Bishop of Winchester. It may seem curious that the name "New" should be applied to one of the oldest establishments in Oxford; but no doubt it was so named after its foundation, and the town has clung

## Things Seen in Oxford

to it ever since. The entrance to this magnificent collection of buildings is very unpretentious, not to say disappointing; but when once within, the unassuming entrance is forgotten, and the soul is charmed with graceful pinnacles, mullioned windows, and heavy buttresses.

The chapel contains some fine old stained glass, and one painted by Jervais from designs by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Between 1870 and 1880 extensive alterations and decorations were carried out by Sir G. G. Scott, and the reredos was restored. A precious relic is preserved, on the north side of the chapel, in the founder's crozier, or pastoral staff. The hall has a fine oak roof, and contains many portraits of eminent persons by well-known painters. The library contains, amongst other treasures, a fine collection of seals and coins.

The beautiful gardens are bounded on the north side by a perfect portion of the old city walls, the massive bastions of which



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

NEW COLLEGE.

A bird's-eye view taken from the Schools' Tower.



## Colleges and Halls

give a good idea of the strength of the old fortifications.

The tower contains a sweet-toned peal of ten bells, some of them bearing the founder's motto, "Manners makyth man."

At the corner of New College Street and Catherine Street is Hertford College. This college was founded in 1284 by Elias de Hertford as Hart Hall. In 1740 the Hall was created a college by royal charter on the petition of Dr. Newton, but so peculiar were its statutes that no one would accept the headship, and so it became extinct. In 1822, when old Magdalen Hall was destroyed by fire, the authorities by Act of Parliament acquired the extinct Hertford College, which was afterwards renamed Magdalen Hall. In 1874 its original title was restored. Some portions of the old Hertford Hall still remain, but the buildings built in 1822 are extremely plain, though the later additions are charming. The chapel is a fine building of the early Renaissance style.

## Things Seen in Oxford

In striking contrast to the comparatively modern front of Queen's, on the other side of the High stands University College. For a long time this college enjoyed the reputation of being the oldest foundation in Oxford; it boasted of being founded by Alfred the Great. This legend, however, has faded away, and now Merton and Balliol dispute the honour. Although University, generally known as Univ., with its castellated front looks so venerable, the present buildings do not date back farther than about 1635 or 1636. There is said to have been originally a "University Hall" founded by King Alfred on the spot now occupied by the present college. The dining-hall has of late been extended, and contains many portraits of eminent men. It was here that the poet Shelley had rooms, and of him Mr. Lang says: "There are few chapters in history more fascinating than those which tell of Shelley at Oxford. We see him entering the hall of University College, a tall, shy stripling,



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**THE FRONT OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.**

For a long time supposed to be the oldest college. The legend that it was founded by Alfred the Great is now exploded.





## Colleges and Halls

bronzed with the September sun, with long elf-locks. He takes his seat by a stranger, and in a moment holds him spellbound, while he talks of Plato, Goethe, and Alfieri, of Italian poetry and Greek philosophy. Mr. Hogg draws a curious sketch of Shelley at work in his rooms, where seven-shilling pieces were being dissolved in acid in the teacups, where there was a great hole in the floor that the poet had burned with his chemicals."

A little farther up, on the opposite side of the High, is All Souls College, founded by Henry Chichele in 1437, who was afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. This college was dedicated to "All the Souls of the Faithful Departed," especially the souls of Henry V. and those who fell in the French wars. The only undergraduates in the college are four Bible clerks. The Fellowships, of which there are about fifty, are filled by elections from other colleges. Formerly those who could prove their kinship with the founder were given the preference,

## Things Seen in Oxford

but now this restriction has been abolished. The magnificent reredos at the east end of the chapel, which is in Perpendicular style, was walled up in 1664, but was restored in 1876. It consists of many statues, with a representation of the Crucifixion in the centre. The library was built in 1760 by Colonel Codrington, a former Fellow; it contains nearly 90,000 volumes, a large number of them being legal works. On the front is Sir Christopher Wren's sundial, an illustration of which is given in this book.

A little further up the High is Brasenose, or B.N.C., which in recent years has been very much extended, now occupying a great portion of the space between the High and Brasenose Lane. It was founded by William Smith, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1509, and the foundation is entitled in the charter as the "King's Hall and College of Brasenose." Whatever the origin of the name may be, there is no doubt that the brazen nose which has always been associated with the college



*Photo, Taunt*

THE NEW FRONT OF BRASENOSE COLLEGE.

*Oxford.*

Extensive alterations and additions have been made of recent years, and the College has now a magnificent frontage to the High.



## Colleges and Halls

was added as a pun upon the name. The hall, which is slightly altered from its primitive style, contains many portraits, amongst them being that of Dr. Burton, the author of "The Anatomy of Melancholy." The Chapel contains several handsome memorial windows and a reredos, which have been recently restored.

Across the High, down Oriel Street, stands Oriel College. It has been only recently completed, the new buildings occupying part of the site of the ancient St. Mary's Hall (otherwise known as "Skimmery"), which was presented by Edward II. in 1325 to Oriel College. Oriel was founded by Adam de Brome in 1324, the name being derived from a French word meaning a sort of recess or small room or oratory. The hall, which was built in 1637, has a very pleasing exterior. The interior is a fine room, with a magnificent oak roof, and contains many portraits of celebrated persons. The members of this college took prominent parts in the Tractarian Movement, amongst

## Things Seen in Oxford

them being Keble, Arnold, Newman, and others. By the munificence of Cecil Rhodes, the authorities have been enabled to make great extensions and improvements.

Opposite to Oriel, on the other side of Merton Street, is Corpus Christi College, founded in 1516 by Fox, Bishop of Winchester. The chapel possesses an altarpiece representing the Adoration, by Rubens. The illustration in this book shows the quad with the sundial standing in the centre of it; this was constructed by Turnbull, a Fellow of the college, in 1605. The library possesses many valuable ancient volumes and manuscripts.

Close to Corpus stands Merton, the most interesting of all the colleges of Oxford, because on its collegiate system the others were modelled. It is the oldest college in Oxford, and was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton, who was Chancellor to Henry III. He drew up a code of statutes for the foundation of a house, to be called "The House of the Scholars of Merton," at Maldon, in



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE.**

The pillar-like erection in the centre of the quad is a sundial constructed by Turnbull, a Fellow of the College, in 1605.





## Colleges and Halls

Surrey. The endowment consisted of the manors of Maldon and Farlegh for the support of twenty students at Oxford. A warden was appointed to reside, not at Oxford, but at Maldon or Farlegh. In 1266 or 1268 he purchased the site of the present college, and in 1270 he issued other statutes, more in number and much longer than those issued in 1264; and thus the rule of Merton was imitated by founders of colleges both at Oxford and Cambridge.

The chapel, which had formerly been the parish church of St. John the Baptist, was magnificently rebuilt by the founder. The side windows still retain their original glass. It contains finely carved sedilia, memorial brasses, and a brass lectern dating from 1458; also an altarpiece supposed to have been painted by Tintoretto. The library is extremely interesting from its antiquity; it dates from 1349, and was built by William Rede, Bishop of Chichester. It was at Merton that the wife of Charles I. held her

## Things Seen in Oxford

Court when they were at Oxford. Before it was absorbed by the college, the buildings of St. Alban's Hall, otherwise known as "Stubbins," were attached to the buildings of Merton. Running along the south side of the college and the college gardens are traces of the old city wall.

Carfax, the point where the two main streets cross, is now a tower, the sole remnant of the old city church long ago destroyed. The modern church erected on its site was demolished in 1896 to improve the thoroughfare. Skeat, amongst other derivations of the word, derives it from the two Latin words, *quattuor* and *furca*—that is to say, the place where four roads meet—which seems to be a very likely derivation. Carfax, in many a "town and gown," was the rallying-place of the "town," just as St. Mary's was the rallying-place of the "gown."

Running to the south is St. Aldate's Street, usually known as St. Aldate's, and pronounced "Olds"; on the left-hand side



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**TOM TOWER, CHRIST CHURCH.**

"Great Tom" formerly belonged to Osney Abbey, and was recast in 1680. It tolls out 101 times at 9.5 p.m. each night in term time, the original number of students on the foundation, by which time all college gates are closed.



## Colleges and Halls

stands Christ Church, known as the "House" ("Ædes Christi"). From Tom Tower, Great Tom booms out 101 strokes each night during term-time at 9 p.m., being the original number of students. The hundred and first stroke is the signal for all college gates to be closed, and each member knocking in after that time is fined. The First, or Great, Quadrangle is the finest in Oxford.

The building of Cardinal Wolsey's college was commenced in 1525, but on his attainder, work was stopped, and Henry VIII. appropriated all the revenues. The Tom Tower was erected, or, rather, completed, from designs by Sir Christopher Wren in 1682. Of course, the history of Christ Church as a religious institution goes far back into Saxon times, for, as we have seen in another chapter, St. Frideswide retired with her maidens to a convent which she had established there. In 1522 the Priory of St. Frideswide was handed over to Henry VIII., who in turn presented it to Cardinal Wolsey, who was

## Things Seen in Oxford

then at the height of his power. Traces of original Saxon architecture have of recent years been discovered ; this may be seen in the illustration facing p. 92, where St. Frideswide's shrine (restored) and part of an old Saxon arch are shown. The main architecture is of a transition type between Norman and Early English.

The cathedral is small, but what it lacks in size it makes up in beauty, and it is owing to the care of Dean Liddell that many of its most interesting and beautiful characteristics have been preserved or brought to light. The Latin Chapel, built by Lady Elizabeth Montague, is so called because the Latin prayers were read there. It was used, and may be now, for the purpose of delivering Divinity lectures by the Regius Professor. The chapter-house is a fine specimen of Early English architecture. Christ Church Hall is said to be the finest of the medieval halls in the kingdom, excepting that of Westminster. Many valuable portraits by Hol-



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**THE LADY CHAPEL, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.**

On the left is St. Frideswide's tomb, restored ; on the right are traces of a Saxon arch ; above it is one of Burne-Jones's windows.





## Colleges and Halls

bein, Gainsborough, Lawrence, Kneller, Reynolds, and other celebrated painters, decorate the walls. The kitchen is interesting as having been completed by Cardinal Wolsey in 1528, and remains unchanged to the present time. The library is of comparatively recent origin, and was commenced about 1716 and completed in 1761. It contains a fine collection of books, manuscripts, and coins. The picture gallery contains a rare collection of paintings by, amongst others, Cimbue, Giotto, Tintoretto, Titian, and other celebrated painters. The quads consist of Tom Quad, Peckwater Quad, and Canterbury Quad. Peckwater derives its name from an old Inn kept by one Peckwater. Until the time of Henry VIII. it was used for the study of civil law, and was afterwards presented by the King to the college. Canterbury Quad was once the site of Canterbury College, which was founded in 1363 by Simon Islip, Archbishop of Canterbury, and John Wycliffe was the first Warden. On the

## Things Seen in Oxford

suppression of the minor foundations it was presented by the King to Christ Church.

On the opposite side of the street is Pembroke College, which dates from 1624, and was founded by Thomas Tesdale and Richard Wightwick, and named after the Earl of Pembroke, who was Chancellor of the University. The chapel is a classic structure of comparatively recent origin, as it was begun in 1728, the year when Dr. Johnson entered into residence in the college. Previous to 1829 it was a very plain building, but was afterwards beautified from designs by C. E. Kempe. The reredos of beautifully marked marble encloses a copy of a painting by Rubens. Johnson's rooms may yet be seen over the gateway.

A little way down the road between Rose Place and Clark's Row stands a picturesque house known as Bishop King's Palace. King was the last Abbot of Osney and the first Bishop of Oxford.

Retracing one's steps towards Carfax and



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**PECKWATER QUAD. CHRIST CHURCH.**

This occupies the site where an Inn kept by one Peckwater formerly stood.



## Colleges and Halls

returning down the High, one comes to Turl Street, known as the "Turl," on the right-hand side of which stands Lincoln College, founded by Richard Flemyng, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1427. But it languished until 1478, when an appeal by John Tristoppe so touched the heart of Rotheram, Bishop of Lincoln, that he became its munificent benefactor. The Hall was built ten years later (1437) by John Forrest. This was "improved," and the tracery of the windows destroyed and the roof plastered over, but fortunately it was restored in 1891. It contains portraits, amongst them being those of Mark Pattison and Dr. Merry. From an antiquarian point of view the kitchen is most interesting, being the oldest part of the building. The chapel is one of the most interesting examples of seventeenth-century work in Oxford, and valuable glass is in the windows. The woodwork, of cedar, is very finely carved.

On the left-hand side of Turl Street stands

## Things Seen in Oxford

Jesus College, with Exeter College facing it on the opposite side of the street. Jesus College was founded in 1571 by Dr. Hugh Price, Treasurer of St. David's. It was intended for the education of Welsh students, and the credit of founding the college was gracefully made over to Queen Elizabeth, whose sanction he had obtained, and she provided the timber from the royal forests of Stowe and Shotover.

The site which the college now covers was once occupied by two of the numerous halls which formerly existed — Whytehall and Elm Hall. The chapel is of late Gothic style. The hall contains a few very good portraits of Queen Elizabeth, Charles I., and Charles II., and others. The library has a good collection of rare books and manuscripts. Amongst them was the *Llyfr Coch*, or Red Book, containing Welsh legends and romances of the fourteenth century. This, however, has been transferred to the safe keeping of the Bodleian. The college possesses a huge punch



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**LINCOLN COLLEGE.**

Named after its founder, Richard Flemyng, Bishop of Lincoln.





## Colleges and Halls

bowl capable of holding many gallons, and weighs over 278 ounces.

Exeter College, on the opposite side of the road, was formerly known as Stapleton Hall, and was founded in 1314 by Walter de Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter. Bishop Stapleton, however, and some of his servants were murdered near St. Paul's Cathedral in 1326. In 1315 it was transferred to St. Stephen's Hall, and in 1404 Dr. E. Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, changed the name to Exeter Hall. So many improvements have been made in the structure of the college that hardly anything remains of the original building. The present chapel, a fine structure, was erected in 1856, and bears a considerable resemblance to the Sainte Chapelle in Paris. The building is superbly decorated with mosaics and sculptures, the woodwork is beautifully carved, the canopied stalls are extremely handsome, and on the south wall there is a fine piece of tapestry, designed by Burne-Jones and executed by William Morris, representing

## Things Seen in Oxford

the Adoration of the Magi. One part of the building, which was erected in 1856, faces Broad Street. In 1709 a disastrous fire destroyed a greater part of the books in the library. The hall was built in 1618 and restored in 1872. It contains many fine and interesting portraits.

Passing down the Turl one comes out almost immediately opposite Balliol College. This college was founded between 1260 and 1266 by Sir John de Balliol, father of the Scottish King. It is said that he founded this institution for poor Durham scholars, in order to escape being scourged at the doors of Durham Cathedral. Before his plans were carried out he died, but charged his wife Devorguilla to complete them after his death. The present front of the college is of recent origin, as the old one was taken down in 1867 and the present one erected. As a collegiate foundation Balliol disputes with Merton for priority, the claims of University College having dropped to the



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**BALLIOL COLLEGE.**

This college claims precedence of Merton as the earliest collegiate institution.



## Colleges and Halls

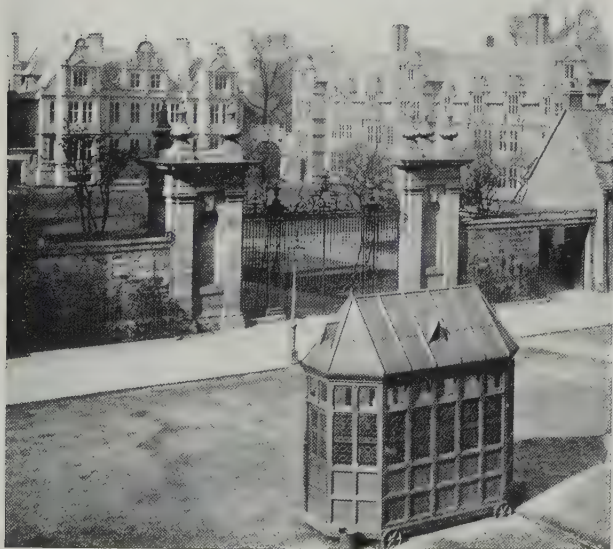
ground. The library contains some rare manuscripts, Bibles, etc. The chapel was rebuilt in 1856. The reredos and screen are fine specimens of Butterfield's work. The new hall was completed in 1877. Balliol stands well in schools, and the entrance exam. is the stiffest of all other college entrance exams. The authorities insist that all members shall take their degree in some final honours school. This high standard is due to Dr. Jenkyns, who at one time was master, by his system of open scholarships, which, of course, attracted the best men. On the roll of students are included such names as Evelyn, Southey, Matthew Arnold, Swinburne, Coleridge, Toynbee, Adam Smith, and many others who have attained eminent positions in various paths of life.

Adjoining Balliol stands Trinity, conspicuous by its elegant iron gates. It stands on the site of an ancient house of Benedictines called Durham Hall, which was suppressed at the Dissolution of the Monas-

## Things Seen in Oxford

teries. The present college was founded in 1555 by Sir Thomas Pope, who was Privy Councillor to Henry VIII. and Queen Mary, and dedicated to the Holy and Undivided Trinity. The New Quadrangle was completed in 1887, from the designs of Mr. T. G. Jackson, R.A. The scheme of architecture and the wide lawns studded with trees form one of the most beautiful attractions to be found in Oxford. The chapel was built in 1694 by Dr. Bathurst, President of the College, and contains some beautiful carving by Grinling Gibbons. The hall was built in 1618 on the site of a former one. In the gardens is the well-known Lime-Tree Walk, skilfully formed of twenty-four limes on each side, and trained in a continuous arch.

The Broad is a fine open street, formerly the Canditch, or Candida fossa, down the centre of which a stream once flowed. Turning to the right out of the Broad lies a fine open space known as St. Giles. On the



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

#### THE FRONT OF TRINITY COLLEGE.

The college is architecturally beautiful, while the lawns and trees contribute to form a charming scene.





## Colleges and Halls

right-hand side stretch the buildings of Balliol, and adjoining these are those of St. John's.

St. John's was originally a house of Bernardine monks, given over by them to Archbishop Chichele. When the monasteries were dissolved, the house was presented to Christ Church by Henry VIII., by whom it was handed over in 1555 to Sir Thomas White, of Rickmansworth. It was founded for the study of "divinity, philosophy, and the arts to the praise and honour of God, the Virgin Mary, and St. John Baptist." The hall, built in 1502, is but a sorry remnant of the old foundation—the Georgian period ruined it. The chapel was consecrated in 1530, and after various alterations at different times was finally redecorated in 1872. The remains of Sir Thomas White, the founder, Archbishop Laud, and Archbishop Judson lie beneath the altar. The library contains a fine collection of rare books, and the relics of Archbishop Laud,

## Things Seen in Oxford

amongst them being his cope with other articles. The gardens, at one time a favourite resort of all the better class Oxford society, consist of five acres, and are extremely beautiful.

Wadham College was founded on the site of the monastery of Austin Friars in 1610 by Nicholas Wadham and his wife Dorothy. The building is a good specimen of the Gothic of the seventeenth century. The chapel, a fine structure, contains an east window by Van Ling, 1620. The college possesses one of the finest halls in Oxford; it has a fine timbered roof and a handsome screen, and contains many portraits, notably those of James I., Charles I., and William III. The library contains many valuable books and manuscripts. The gardens, though not so large as some college gardens, can, at any rate, vie with them in beauty.

Opposite the Parks stands Keble College, founded by subscription in memory of the Rev. John Keble, author of the "Christian



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

FRONT OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, ST. GILES.



## Colleges and Halls

Year.” It was opened by the late Marquis of Salisbury in 1870. It is a peculiar-looking building, though time will do much to tone down the rather glaring effects of the different coloured bricks. In style it is Gothic. The chapel is a superb one, and was given by the late W. Gibbs, of Tyntsfeld, near Bristol. Events from the New Testament are represented in mosaics. Holman Hunt’s celebrated “Light of the World,” presented by Mrs. Coombe to the college, may be seen in the Liddon Memorial Chapel. The hall and library were presented by the Gibbs’ family, and contain portraits of Keble, Pusey, Dr. Talbot (the first warden) Dr. Liddon, and others.

The quaint building of Worcester College has a good position facing the wide Beaumont Street. It is built on the site of an old institution founded in 1283 called Gloucester Hall. The hall was founded by Baron John Giffard for the Benedictine monks. Later the name was changed to St. John Baptist

## Things Seen in Oxford

Hall. In 1694 it was purchased by the trustees of Sir Thomas Cookes, who founded the present Worcester College. The chapel is a fine example of Renaissance decoration. The altarpiece represents the Entombment of our Lord. The Hall is a fine room containing some valuable portraits, and over the arcade or cloister is the library, containing many rare and curious works. The two sides of the quad form rather a striking contrast, those on the lower side being remnants of the old Gloucester Hall, while those on the opposite side are of a comparatively recent date. The gardens are beautiful, and free to all.

Of the very many halls which once existed, none remain at the present day with the exception of St. Edmund's Hall. They have all been absorbed into the different colleges, and St. Edmund's will very shortly cease to exist as an independent institution, as it is to be incorporated with Queen's. Many new halls, however, are springing up.



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**WADHAM COLLEGE.**

Founded by Nicholas Wadham and his wife Dorothy in 1610.





## Colleges and Halls

Manchester College occupies a pleasant position facing the Mansfield Road. It has experienced a somewhat chequered career. It was founded in 1786 at Manchester, but in 1803 it was transferred to York; from there it was brought back to Manchester in 1840, and affiliated to the University of London. It was then removed to London in 1853; but the trustees, we suppose, tired of such an erratic existence, determined to settle down for good at Oxford, and in 1893 it was completed and opened. It consists of a small quadrangle, chapel and library, and lecture-rooms. The chapel is a handsome building with a good organ. The library was the gift of Mr. Henry Tate, who is so well known for his generosity in this respect. Manchester College is not a college in the strict sense as are the institutions of Oxford, for it is intended to give a theological training to those only who have taken their degree.

Mansfield College, close to the South Park

## Things Seen in Oxford

Road, was founded in 1886, and was transferred from its original home in Birmingham to Oxford, and named after the family who had endowed it. It is a Nonconformist college, and, like Manchester College, gives a theological training only to those who have already taken their degree.

Somerville College for women is situated close to the Woodstock Road, and was opened in 1889 for women, and was originally known as Somerville Hall.

Lady Margaret Hall, on the north side of the Parks, was founded in 1879 for the education of women on Church of England lines.

In addition to other halls, there is Wycliffe Hall, a theological institution for candidates for Holy Orders.

Ruskin College, at the corner of Walton Street and Worcester Place, was known originally as Ruskin Hall. It was founded by Mr. Vrooman with the object of providing facilities for the education of working men.

## PUBLIC UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS



## CHAPTER III

### PUBLIC UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

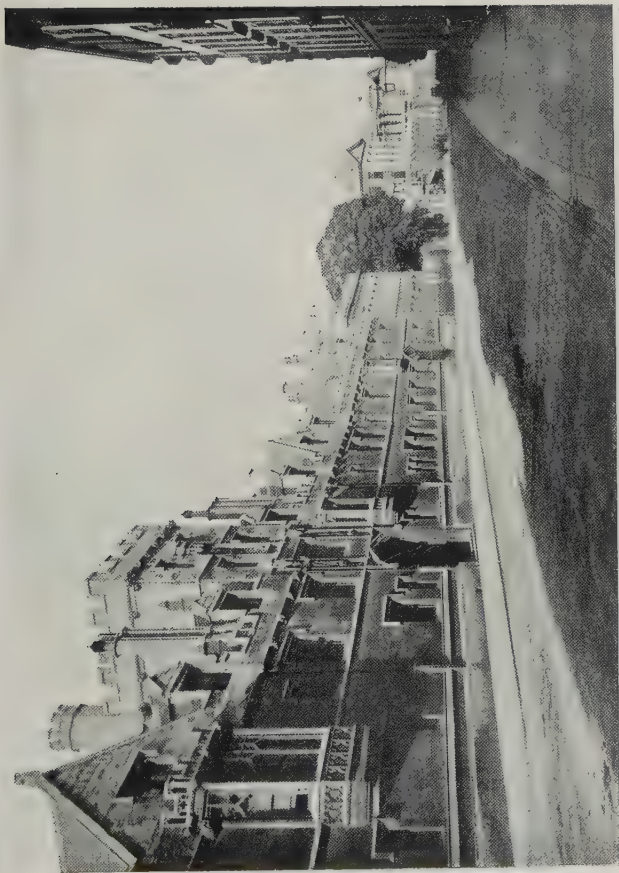
THE Ashmolean Museum, now incorporated with the University Galleries, was transferred from Broad Street to Beaumont Street in 1895. It comprises two divisions, the Antiquarium and the Fine Art Galleries. The nucleus of the museum is that which is called Tradescant's Ark. Tradescant was a collector of rare and curious objects and botanical specimens, and lived at Lambeth in London. After the death of Tradescant, Elias Ashmole acquired the collection, and presented it, in addition to his own, to the University. The old building in Broad Street was erected for its accommodation, but the collection was transferred to Beaumont Street. There are many

## Things Seen in Oxford

interesting objects contained in the museum, among them being King Alfred's jewel, the Sword of State presented by Pope Leo X. to Henry VIII., and a lantern used by Guy Fawkes. The Fine Art Galleries in the same building contain a valuable collection of paintings. There are etchings and prints by Rembrandt, Vandyke, and Albert Dürer, while such painters as Millais, Rossetti, and David Cox are well represented. There is also a famous collection of sketches by Michael Angelo and Raphael. There are numerous drawings and sketches by J. M. W. Turner, presented by Mr. John Ruskin, who was Slade Professor of Art. The sculpture gallery contains the famous Arundel Marbles.

At the head of Beaumont Street and opposite Balliol College stands the Martyrs' Memorial. The first stone in this memorial was laid in May, 1841, when the Tractarian Movement was agitating the minds of thinking people.

The present building of the famous Bod-



*Photo, Taunt*

ALL SOULS.

Founded in 1437 by Henry Chichele, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, as a memorial for the souls of all the faithful who had died at Oxford, and of those who fell at Agincourt and the French wars.

*Oxford.*





## Public University Buildings

leian Library was commenced by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, son of Henry IV. In 1550 it was shamefully ill-used by the Protestant Commissioners of Edward VI. All manuscripts and books having a tendency towards the Roman Catholic doctrine were destroyed without mercy, even those which were innocent enough within themselves, but by their appearance gave a suspicion of being heretically inclined, suffered the same fate, coloured lettering or a geometrical design being enough to damn them. In 1597 it was refounded and restored by Sir Thomas Bodley of Merton College; it was named after him, and opened in 1602. The Bodleian contains priceless literary treasures, and nearly 900,000 books. The adjoining picture gallery contains portraits of eminent University benefactors by famous painters, the death-warrant of Charles I., and the chair made from the wood of Drake's ship, *The Golden Hind*, an illustration of which is given in this book.

## Things Seen in Oxford

The Clarendon Building, close to the Bodleian in Broad Street, was completed in 1713 from the profits derived from Lord Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion," presented to the University by his son. Formerly the printing press of the University had its home at the Sheldonian Theatre, but it was removed in 1713 to the building erected for the purpose, where it remained until 1830, when it was transferred to the present printing-office in Walton Street.

The Radcliffe Camera was built in 1749 by Dr. Radcliffe, physician to William III. ; it was originally called the Physic Library, but in 1862 the medical books were removed to the University Museum, and Radcliffe Camera became the reading-room in connection with the Bodleian Library. The literature is chiefly modern, mainly published since 1850. A magnificent view of the University and its surroundings is to be obtained from the gallery which runs round the dome. The Sheldonian, facing Broad Street,



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

FRONT OF ORIEL COLLEGE.

Founded by King Edward II.



## Public University Buildings

was built in 1664-1669, and was named after the founder, Archbishop Sheldon, who was then Chancellor of the University, after designs by Sir Christopher Wren, for the accommodation of the University on those occasions on which St. Mary's Church had hitherto been used. Previous to the erection of what is now the old Clarendon Buildings, part of it was devoted to the University Press. The building is supposed to be a copy of the theatre of Marcellus at Rome. It has a finely painted flat ceiling by Robert Streater, serjeant painter to Charles I., and a powerful organ.

The Encenia, or Commemoration of Founders, is held here in June of each year, when honorary degrees are conferred on distinguished persons, orations are delivered, and prize poems and essays recited. The scene is a most animated one that should be seen rather than described. The topmost gallery is occupied by undergraduates, who make full use of the special licence granted

## Things Seen in Oxford

to them on this occasion to air their views on any matter, and to make critical remarks without respect of persons, all containing more or less wit. There is never anything offensive, and all is given and taken with great good-humour. The galleries beneath are occupied by ladies and Dons, while the area is packed with strangers and graduates.

Commemoration used to be the culminating week of the academic year, when the gaiety of the summer term reached its climax, but now its glories appear to be fading before those of the Eights Week.

The grotesque figures facing the Broad are not the twelve Cæsars, but are merely representations of ancient sages and philosophers.

The University Museum occupies a very fine situation in the Parks. It is a splendid building, and cost more than £100,000. It was opened in 1860. It is excelled by no other in the world for its completeness in the Natural Sciences. It contains innumerable zoological, mineralogical, and geological



*Photo. Taunt*

*Oxford.*

DINING HALL AND ENTRANCE, ORIEL COLLEGE.

The Hall possesses a fine oaken roof.





## Public University Buildings

specimens ; the polished and carved shafts are of many British marbles and stone. The Pitt Rivers Collection is valuable to anthropologists, and was presented by General Pitt Rivers. It is a collection of instruments and implements, peaceful and warlike, showing the evolution of civilization by the development of the handicrafts and arts of mankind.

The Astronomical Observatory, close by, was built in 1874, and is fitted with every appliance for the study of astronomy. The celebrated reflecting telescope was presented by Dr. Warren de la Rue.

The Radcliffe Observatory in Observatory Street, off the Woodstock Road, was erected in 1772 by the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe, in grounds between nine and ten acres in extent, presented by George the third Duke of Marlborough. The architect, Mr. Keene, died before the completion of the building. The Octagonal Tower is a copy of the Temple of the Winds at Athens, and is surmounted by a globe supported by figures representing Atlas

## Things Seen in Oxford

and Hercules. The finest modern instruments are provided for astronomical observation, and a new tower and dome was erected in 1901 for a huge double telescope by Sir H. Grubb of Dublin.

The present home of the University Printing Office is in Walton Street, where it finally settled, after moving successively from the Sheldonian Theatre and the old Clarendon Building. The Clarendon Press is one of the largest printing establishments in the world.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND  
CHURCHES



THE GARDENS OF WORCESTER COLLEGE.

## CHAPTER IV

### MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND CHURCHES

**A** PART from the University, Oxford is singularly lacking in public buildings. The one big building of which it may be proud is the New Municipal Buildings opened by the late King, then Prince of Wales, in 1897. This is a fine building, grouping all the municipal offices under one roof. The Town Hall is surrounded on three sides by a gallery, and at the east end has an orchestra, with a fine organ. It is elaborately decorated, while the scheme of colour decoration is admirable. The hall will seat nearly two thousand people. The assembly-room is richly panelled, and has a minstrels' gallery, and a splendid Elizabethan fireplace. The

## Things Seen in Oxford

Council chamber is oak panelled, and has a fine ceiling. The Mayor's parlour contains some of the carving from the old building.

At Carfax there originally stood a handsome conduit, erected in 1610 by Otho Nicholson to provide the city with fresh water; this was removed in 1787, and re-erected in Nuneham Park, the seat of the Harcourts, about six miles from Oxford, where it may be seen at the present day. Carfax Tower is the only remaining part of the old church of St. Martin's. St. Martin's, the legend goes, was founded by King Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great, in 920. It was given to Siward, Abbot of Abingdon, by Canute in 1034. For many centuries later civic business was transacted in its churchyard. Its walls from time immemorial have been the rallying-place for the "town," as St. Mary's was the rallying-place for the "gown." In 1354, during a "town" and "gown," over sixty students were killed. In 1585 four city lectureships



*Photo, Taunt*

**WORCESTER COLLEGE.**

This college stands on the site of an old institution, Gloucester Hall, 1283. The foundation of the present college dates from 1714.

*Oxford.*





## Municipal Buildings, etc.

were founded contemporaneously with the institution of the University sermons at St. Mary's, but were discontinued when the two livings were amalgamated. The old edifice, with the exception of the tower, was pulled down and rebuilt in 1822, but in 1896 it was finally demolished to improve the thoroughfare, and the tower was left standing alone.

Of the churches now standing which have an interesting past, St. Michael's is one of the few good examples of Saxon architecture. It has been said that it was built by Robert D'Oily, who built the castle, but there does not seem to be any evidence to support this. It was built on the old fortifications, and commanded the North Gate, over which was the Bocardo prison, in which prisoners of all sorts were confined. Mr. Lang says: "It is in the true primitive style, gaunt, unadorned, with round-headed windows, good for shooting from with a bow. St. Michael's was not only a church but a watch-tower of the city wall, and here the old North Gate,

## Things Seen in Oxford

called Bocardo, spanned the street. The rooms above the gate were used as a prison, and the poor inmates used to let down a greasy old hat from the window in front of the passers-by and cry, 'Pity the Bocardo birds.' Of Bocardo no trace remains, but St. Michael's is likely to last as long as any edifice in Oxford. It is worth while to climb the tower and remember the time when arrows were sent like hail from the narrow windows on the foes who approached from the north, while prayers for their confusion were read in the church below."

St. Mary's Church is the University Church, where in addition to parochial services University sermons are preached on Sunday mornings during term. It was founded in the thirteenth century, but the tower and the spire were added later. It fell into a ruinous condition, and was rebuilt at the end of the fifteenth century. The spire was restored in 1861, and the north side of the church in 1871. The pulpit is occupied by



*Photo, Taunt*

**OLD BUILDINGS, WORCESTER COLLEGE.**

*Oxford.*

These quaint old buildings on the lower side of the quadrangle are vestiges of the old Gloucester Hall.



## Municipal Buildings, etc.

men of all grades of opinion, and if the preacher is a popular one the scene is very animated. The undergraduates crowd in the galleries, while the body of the church is filled with Dons and a mixed congregation. The "bidding" prayer which is used before the sermon in the place of Morning Prayer is a long one, in which the names of benefactors to the University, and of a certain College in particular, are introduced. It was in the chancel of this church that Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer were cited for a disputation on the question of transubstantiation, and here, in 1556, Cranmer refused to adhere to the "Papistical doctrine" on the morning of his martyrdom. The body of the unfortunate Amy Robsart, the heroine of Sir Walter Scot's "Kenilworth," is supposed to be buried in this church.

St. Giles, in the Woodstock Road, is another old church dating from the early part of the twelfth century, and rebuilt in the thirteenth. It contains interesting ex-

## Things Seen in Oxford

amples of Norman architecture. Archbishop Juxon was Rector from 1610. The living now belongs to St. John's College, presented by Sir Thomas White, the founder of that College.

St. Peter's-in-the-East is, according to Wood, the oldest church in the city. It has a fine Norman crypt, and the south door is an almost perfect specimen of Norman architecture.

## THE UNDERGRADUATE





## CHAPTER V

### THE UNDERGRADUATE

IT is hard to believe that any hero of fiction has been more travestied than the Oxford undergraduate. In fiction he is either a combination of all the virtues—physical, mental, and moral—or he is a conglomeration of vices which would put Lucifer to shame. Whatever may have happened in times past, these heroes do not exist now. If an undergraduate shows any vicious propensities, he is “barred” by his fellows, or severely admonished, and perhaps sent down. The virtuous undergraduate gains his pre-eminence by strenuous physical training or by studious application. One well-known authoress, in describing the 'Varsity boat-race, wrote of the crew: “They all rowed

## Things Seen in Oxford

fast, but none so fast as stroke," which must have made the performance rather an eccentric one. Mr. Godley, in describing the bad undergraduate of fiction, as he is depicted, says that he "defied the ten commandments all and severally with the ease and success of the villain of transpontine melodrama. Nothing came amiss to him from forgery to screwing up the Dean and letting it be understood that someone else had done it; but retribution generally came at last, and this combination of manifold vices was detected and rusticated; and it was understood that from rustication to the gallows was the shortest and easiest of all translations. The virtuous undergraduate wore trousers too short for him and supported his relatives, but did not join in any athletic pastimes; but when the stroke of his college eight fainted from excitement just before the start, the neglected sizar threw off his threadbare coat, and jumped into the vacant seat and won his



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

MERTON COLLEGE, SOUTH QUADRANGLE.



## The Undergraduate

crew at once the proud position of the head of the river by the simple process of making four bumps on the same night. He afterwards explained that he had practised in a dinghy and saw how it could be done. Then there would be the Admirable Crichton of University life, perhaps the commonest type among these heroes of romance, and was invariably of Christ Church; unfortunately he went so far as to do nothing much during the first three and a half years of his academic career, except to go to a good many wine parties, where he always wore his cap and gown, especially in female fiction. Then when every one supposed he must be ploughed in Greats, he sits up so late for a week and wears so many wet towels that eventually he is announced at the Encenia amid the plaudits of his friends and the approving smiles of the Vice-Chancellor as the winner of a double first, several University prizes, and a Fellowship."

Whatever heroes may have been in the

## Things Seen in Oxford

past times, such do not exist nowadays ; his manners, dress, and customs are those of any ordinary youth who has been well brought up at a good school. He goes up with the intention of taking a degree, and at the same time of having as good a time as he can afford. Whatever pre-eminence he gains either in the schools, on the river, or in other forms of athletics, is gained by hard reading and hard training. He is certainly not so unsophisticated as we are led to believe his predecessors were, and most of the attempts at pulling a freshman's leg, such as are described in "The Adventures of Verdant Green," will invariably end in failure.

When one goes down to the Great Western station and sees the train at the beginning of term discharging its heavy freight, one cannot help wondering what the feeling of the average freshman must be. Perhaps elation and self-importance, and perhaps in some a touch of nervousness, are all combined. As soon as his foot touches the platform he



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

THE RADCLIFFE CAMERA.

This was formerly known as the Physic Library, but is now attached to the Bodleian as a reading-room. It was built by Dr. Radcliffe, Physician to William III.





## The Undergraduate

becomes a man, that is, an Oxford man. It may be that the place is not altogether strange to him ; he may have visited Oxford before on a pleasure trip, or he may have made one or more attempts, successful or otherwise, to gain a scholarship or exhibition, and of course he would have been obliged to come up to pass his entrance exam. These attempts at scholarship - hunting generally occupy the better part of a week, say, from Tuesday to Friday ; and perhaps he may have been fortunate enough to have been put up at the college at which he was making the attempt—in college rooms ; if not, he would go to an hotel, or engage rooms in a lodging - house. During this time he would naturally look round and acquire a certain knowledge of the locality.

But now he is up to reside for three or four years to make or, possibly, to mar himself. The porter collects his luggage, piles it on a vehicle of some kind, and he is wheeled off to his college. He gives his

## Things Seen in Oxford

name to the porter, and is shown his rooms. Rooms vary very much in different colleges, and even at the same college. Some of them are high rooms wainscoted to the ceiling with black oak ; others are attics with sloping roofs, and with a paper which perhaps shows obvious signs of previous occupancy. They are nevertheless comfortably, but not luxuriously furnished.

To each staircase a man-servant is allotted, who looks after the rooms and their occupants, brings up their commons, and attends to them generally ; he is known at Oxford as a "scout." Scouts vary, of course, as servants would anywhere else. A man may have a good scout or a poor one, but as a rule there is not much to find fault with any of them. The "commons" are the allowance of the lighter comestibles such as bread and butter, and beer, etc., obtained from the buttery. The heavier and cooked viands are obtained from the kitchen. If the man feels that he would like to spend



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

### THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE.

The encænïa or commemoration is held here each June ; honorary degrees are conferred and prize poems and compositions recited.



## The Undergraduate

a sociable meal with a friend, he “commonizes” with him—that is to say, he asks his scout to take his commons to his friend’s rooms, or *vice versa*.

If the accommodation of the college is somewhat limited, the Undergraduate may have to commence his academic career in lodgings. This is not desirable, however, from any point of view. At Oxford the authorities like fresh members to reside in college, at any rate for one or two years; and if they wish to go out into lodgings, they must get the consent of their parents or guardians. To live in lodgings is to miss much of University life: one is, to a certain extent, in it, but not of it. Besides, there is more freedom, and this in certain cases is undesirable. At school the boy was under the surveillance of masters nearly all day long, and all at once to give him almost absolute freedom is bad for him. It is true that lodgings are licensed and are obliged to keep a gate-bill, just the same as if the man were in college, in which is

## Things Seen in Oxford

supposed to be kept a record of his incomings. He is, moreover, subject to certain rules of the college, but nevertheless there is certainly more freedom from control. There is, however, something to be said in favour of a senior man going into lodgings. When the final schools are looming large, a man desires all the quiet and seclusion he can obtain. This is not so easily secured in college as in rooms. Doors are too close together and too accessible, and in every community there are roving, restless spirits.

After depositing his goods in his rooms, if provision has not been already made, he must provide himself with crockery, linen, and other personal necessities.

The first official duty will be to visit the bursar and deposit with him the caution-money, which varies in amount, as stated in another chapter. He will then visit his tutor, who will give him his instructions as to lectures, etc., and will probably have a little friendly conversation with him, to



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

MAGDALEN CHAPEL.

The interior, looking to the East.





## The Undergraduate

see what he is made of, and to find any characteristic points about him. In the hall or some convenient place he will find lists appointing his place in hall or in chapel. Of course, when roll-call is held instead of chapel, this latter list will not be required.

His next official visit in company with other "freshers" will be to the Vice-Chancellor, there to be sworn-in like a special constable, sign his name in a book, and be presented with a thick volume of curious lore, known as the "University Statutes." After which he pays, either as a fee to the University chest or as the price of the book, the sum of £2 10s. If it is the price of the book, the charge is exorbitant, so we must regard it as a fee.

If he is a scholar or an exhibitioner, he will, of course, read for an honours school, in which case he will attend inter-collegiate and professor's lectures. If he is merely going in for a pass he will attend lectures, which differ very little from the classes he

## Things Seen in Oxford

attended at school ; they are not, strictly speaking, lectures at all. There is, however, an *aliquid amari*—"a fly in the ointment"—to damp his anticipations of having a good time. Smalls, otherwise Responsions, are looming up at the end of the term. If he is a classical man he is supposed to get through without much difficulty, and without attending any lectures for the purpose—he is supposed to be able to do it "off his own bat." Smalls, even to the honours man, trifling as the examination may seem, has in many cases proved an aggravating annoyance. The mathematical part has often tripped up a brilliant classical scholar, and, conversely, the classical has proved a stumbling-block to the mathematical genius. A failure means so much of his time gone from the time to be devoted to his honours work ; get through he must, so the chances are that the second time, instead of regarding the exam. as one merely to be romped through, he will treat it with a little more courtesy.



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

#### ALL SOULS CHAPEL.

From the middle of the Seventeenth Century the magnificent reredos was concealed with plaster, but was restored in 1876 by Earl Bathurst, a Fellow of the College.



# The Undergraduate

It is a wise thing to pass Smalls before going up, or to pass one of the examinations "in lieu of Responsions," held at many of the large schools. In fact, a good many colleges insist on this course.

He will, of course, have joined the rowing, football, cricket, or hockey clubs. In the winter terms after lunch he will don rowing or football shorts, and blazer ornamented with the college arms on his pocket, with a muffler round his neck, and a cap on his head adorned with his college arms, and will make his way to the river, football, or hockey field. If he does not shine in athletics he will probably go with a friend for a walk to Abingdon, Nuneham Courtney, or any other of the many pleasant walks about Oxford, or he may take a pull in a dinghy as far as Godstow on the Upper River.

At the end of the term there is a function which cannot be called an examination, and yet in some slight degree partakes of the characteristics of one, and that is "Collec-

## Things Seen in Oxford

tions." This is a remnant of medieval times. In the early life of the University the teachers or lecturers were expected to "collect" their fees from the students. Some colleges, I believe, do set papers; but they are treated with scant respect. At a certain hour the junior members of the college are assembled "in hall." The Dons, headed by the Provost or Head of the college, are seated at the high table at one end of the hall, or may be gathered in solemn conclave in the common room. As each member's name is called he marches up the room, or mounts the stairs to the common room, with an easy conscience or otherwise. He passes up to the tribunal, and those of the Dons with whom he has had any personal dealings give their opinion of him. It may be laudatory, but very often it is not. The Dean is satisfied or grieved with his attendance at chapel, or the manner in which he has behaved himself generally. Each of his lecturers in turn gives his opinion. One complains that the attendance of Mr.

## The Undergraduate

So-and-So at his lectures has been spasmodic and erratic, little knowing the poor opinion that Mr. So-and-So has of the gentleman as a lecturer. Another one says that Mr. So-and-So may get such and such a class in Mods. After being harried in this way, and being told rude or pleasant truths about himself, he is dismissed pleasantly or curtly by the Provost or Head, and he retires elated or humbled, according as his virtues or failings have been exposed to the light.

At the end of the term, when going down, expenses are rather heavy. Probably if he is a conscientious man he will pay all his tradesmen, and after that comes the tipping of the college servants.

The succeeding terms are occupied in pretty much the same way, but Mods., which have for some time loomed only in the distant future, have now become a stern reality. The pass-man will probably make an attempt to get through at the end of the first year. The honours-man who wishes to make certain

## Things Seen in Oxford

of a fairly decent class will probably put it off till his second year. Some clever men get a class—first, second, or third—at the end of the first year. This is to their advantage, for then they have two or three years in front of them for their final school, which will allow them to try for a class in an extra school if they wish.

If an undergraduate is fortunate enough to get through Mods. by the end of his first year, he will have two or three years in which to read up for Greats. There are so many schools now in which a man may get honours that most men, who would in times past have been compelled to restrict themselves to a pass, take up some honour school, for they find it easier with such a variety of choice to choose a subject towards which they feel they have a bent, rather than undertake the varied subjects of pass finals.

He must, according to the regulations, have kept twelve terms before he can take his degree. There are in reality four terms



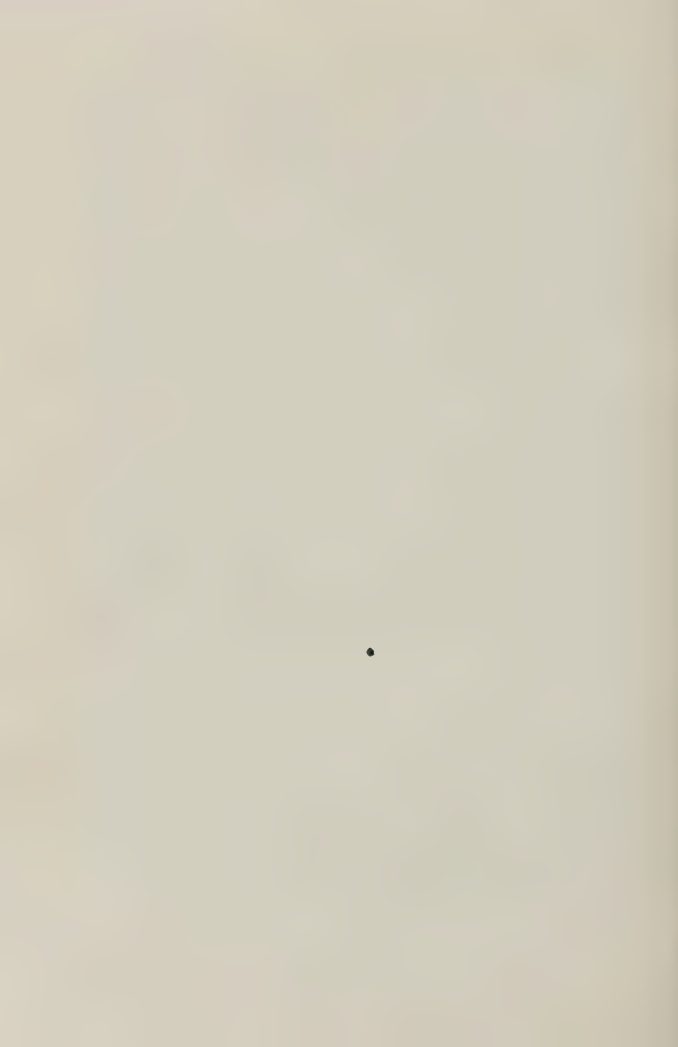


*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

THE HALL STAIRCASE, CHRIST CHURCH.

The fan tracery is very beautiful. The supporting pillar is 80 feet high.



## The Undergraduate

in the year, but during three only is a man in residence. In the fortunate event of his getting through Greats, he is at liberty to take his B.A. degree on any of the days appointed for the ceremony. Fees are paid both to the University and to the College. The Proctors execute their perfunctory quarter-deck walk—a reminiscence of the time when any townsman could “pluck” their sleeves as a protest against the conferring of a degree upon some particular man. His scout brings him his bachelor’s gown, and is rewarded with a tip, more or less handsome, and the undergraduate has now blossomed out into the dignity of a Bachelor of Arts.

The undergraduate of to-day is not such a rowdy character as he was years ago, but is a much soberer and more law-abiding member of society. “Ragging” is now to a large extent discountenanced, and such a thing as screwing up the Dean or an unpopular tutor is not to be thought of.

There is another class of undergraduate

## Things Seen in Oxford

that has not up to now been mentioned: these are the Non-collegiate, or Unattached. In their case they are looked over or governed by Delegates and a Censor. The Delegacy is to them in the place of a college, but with the difference that it provides neither housing nor feeding; it merely provides instruction—that is, arranges lectures, etc.—and that is all. They, of course, are obliged to take rooms in licensed lodging-houses. Unattached men may have several reasons for not entering a college, but the chief one is usually that of expense. His fees are fewer; his living expenses less; and he certainly has more freedom than a man in college. Apart from the fact that he is not a member of a college, his life is pretty much the same as that of any other member of a University who belongs to some college or other. As an example of the lower fees, it may be mentioned that a member of a college pays £5 entrance fee; and £25 or £30 on an average as caution-money. The unattached



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

THE KITCHEN OF NEW COLLEGE.



## The Undergraduate

man pays £2 10s. entrance fee, and his caution-money only amounts to £2; but of course, in the latter case, the reason for the difference is obvious. The college runs the risk of a monetary loss in case battels remain unpaid, whereas the Delegacy runs no risk at all.

The unattached man, of course, loses many of the social advantages held by the college man, in that he misses the constant and intimate intercourse with a number of men all living within the same walls, dining in the same hall, and meeting in the same chapel and lecture-rooms. They have their clubs, and a boat on the river, which is rowed under the name of "St. Catherine."

Points of etiquette are observed more or less strictly in various colleges, but it behoves the freshman to take heed to his steps, for the walking at times is slippery, and the failure to observe certain of these points may bring upon him ridicule which may outlast his time. 'Varsity men are not given

## Things Seen in Oxford

to handshaking, as a shake of the hand at the beginning or end of the term is supposed to be all that is requisite. A curt nod at other times fulfils all the requirements demanded by the rules of politeness. It is curious how this habit grows on one, and keeps its hold even in after-life. I have heard people complain of the discourtesy and abruptness of 'Varsity men simply because they do not understand this custom.

If a senior man invites a freshman to breakfast or lunch, politeness does not require that he should return the compliment by inviting his host—at any rate, not in his first term. It is advisable for him not to make himself too familiar with men of older standing than himself, but generally to observe a modest line of conduct, and, like those of more tender years, wait until he is spoken to. It is not correct to wear too long a gown, and the academical cap or “mortar-board” is seldom worn. Sabbath attire is not now so rigidly donned as in years gone by—in fact,





*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

### THE HALL, QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

This Hall was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The Dons dine at High Table at the top of the room, while the undergraduates dine at the tables running lengthways



## The Undergraduate

most men wear tweeds, with cap or hat. It is a shocking solecism in 'Varsity manners to promenade in gown and at the same time to carry a stick.

Most colleges have a beautifully kept lawn in one, at least, of its quads—lawns so clean and velvety, looking as if they had their hair combed and brushed every morning. These lawns are tabooed to everyone under the status of M.A., and should the undergraduate through ignorance or forgetfulness transgress this rule, he will bring upon himself a loud-voiced admonition from one of the lynx-eyed porters to "Get off the grass!"

When once a man is within the walls of his own college, no outsider may touch him; he is then responsible to none except the authorities of his own college. The restrictions upon the liberty of the undergraduate by the college authorities are never unduly exacting; he has as much latitude as is good for him. He may hurry back and hammer wildly at the lodge-gate as the clock is

## Things Seen in Oxford

striking twelve, but once inside his hurry changes to a saunter. There is no power to compel him to go to bed ; but if he joins a company of hilarious spirits in his own or anyone else's rooms, and there should be too much singing or laughing or talking, it cannot be wondered that sleepy tutors should take exception to it.

AN UNDERGRADUATE'S DAY



## CHAPTER VI

### AN UNDERGRADUATE'S DAY

THE day may be divided into three parts —the morning should be devoted to study, the afternoon to exercise and pleasure, and the evening to social intercourse or private study. It may not be uninteresting to give a short outline of what an average undergrad's day may be ; but, of course, it must be understood that it is only intended to give a general idea of the *average* day of the *average* man. With so many diversions it is manifestly impossible to deal with the matter otherwise than generally.

At seven o'clock, or thereabouts, his scout will knock at his door and tell him the time. If he is a conscientious man he will make a practice of attending chapel ; if he is not, the

## Things Seen in Oxford

college will insist on his showing a certain amount of piety. He will tumble out of bed into his bath, dress, and hurry off to the chapel or roll-call, as the case may be. Certain colleges insist on so many morning chapels being kept or so many evening ones. Other colleges, again, have roll-call instead of chapel, at which each man answers to his name. In some the attendance at chapel is checked by a member who holds a certain emolument from the college, and is termed a Bible Clerk. He notes those who are present, and at the end of the week a list of delinquents is sent in to the Dean.

After chapel, which lasts about half an hour, the undergraduate goes back to his rooms to find his breakfast, or "brekker," probably warming before the fire, where his scout has placed it. After breakfast he will still have an hour or so to look through any work preparatory to the first lecture, or "lekker," at ten o'clock. The lecture, perhaps, is one of the inter-collegiate ones, and





*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford*

**CORNMARKET STREET, LOOKING TOWARDS ST. GILES.**

This is the busiest street in Oxford, and contains merely shops and hotels,



## An Undergraduate's Day

after finding his gown, that ridiculous attenuated piece of material of sub-fusc hue, probably with several big rents in it, he hurries off to New, Trinity, Keble, or any other college where his particular subject is being lectured on. Lectures vary—some are worth listening to, and worth the trouble of taking notes, others are like that of Dr. Johnson's tutor, "not worth twopence."

After this lecture he may have to rush off to his own or any other college, or he may have an hour's interval; but at any rate the lectures, or most of them, are over by one o'clock. He returns to his college and finds his lunch laid by the scout. If there should chance to be anything that he requires, he must resort to the primitive method of summoning his scout by yelling at the top of his voice. There are no bells in college rooms, for as Mr. Verdant Green's scout informed him when he said that he would ring the bell if he required anything else: "Bless you, sir, there ain't no bells never in

## Things Seen in Oxford

colleges ! They'd be rung off their wires in no time."

Shortly after reaching his room a peremptory knock may come at the door. He shouts, "Come in." The porter enters and greets him with "the Dean's compliments, sir, and he would like to see you at once." The undergraduate's heart sinks a little, wondering what the summons can foretell, and he brings up all his past misdeeds in long array before his mind ; but finally decides that it is a question of chapels, and so it proves. The Dean greets him without cordiality, and asks him why he has absented himself from chapel for a whole week. Of course, not having been on the "Aeger" or sick list, and being very much in evidence for that period, he can offer no excuse. The Dean reads him a little homily, and advises him to mend his ways, otherwise he will be under the painful necessity of "gating" him—that is, confine him to the precincts of the college after a certain hour of the day, for

No: I is now on the  
East wall of the  
College hall: it  
is of peculiar  
bronze  
date  
about  
1120

No: II is on glass &  
may be copied from  
an earlier head  
of about.  
1116. 60  
in the  
old  
all



III  
is of  
brass: it  
is secured  
to the gates.  
date about that of  
the College itself.



IV  
From  
a seal of  
1570. used  
by the College  
as Governors of  
Middleton School.

Photo, Taunt

Oxford.

THE NOSE OF BRASENOSE COLLEGE.



## An Undergraduate's Day

a period of time ranging from one week to the rest of the term. The undergraduate retires to his rooms in a chastened frame of mind, and determines to put in more chapels in the future.

After lunch he will go down to the river to be coached for the Challenge Fours, Torpids, or Eight, according to his standing or ability. He will probably be subjected to a good deal of abuse by his coach, but he will stand it good-naturedly, knowing that it is for his good. After the coaching is over he will have a rub down in the barge, and probably, if he does not go back to his rooms, he will drop into the Union for an hour or so. If he is a reading man he will want to get back to his rooms to put in an hour of solid reading, either by himself or with his coach before "hall." Perhaps, however, he is a "Dry-Bob," in which case he may be an advocate of "soccer," "rugger," or cricket.

Hall-time varies in different colleges, and

## Things Seen in Oxford

according to the time of the year. It may be anything from half-past six to eight o'clock. Hall will probably last from half to three-quarters of an hour. If he happens to be head of his table, it will be his duty to decide appeals on knotty points of etiquette or similar questions. Hall is essentially a social function, and shop is strictly barred; anyone infringing this rule may be sconced—that is to say, he may be fined in beer or wine, which will go down in his bill. From this decision he may appeal to the High table—that is, the table at which the Dons dine, and if the decision is reversed the head of the table himself may be sconced. “Sconcing” is a relic of medieval times, when men were sconced in wine, beer, or money for various offences.

After “hall” he goes up to his rooms, and if he is not a staunch upholder of the laws of the University, he will discard his gown, which of course he had to assume for “hall,” and will don his cap or hat; if, on the



## An Undergraduate's Day

contrary, he stands in awe of Proctors and penalties, he will twist the garment, facetiously called a gown, round his neck or carry it over his arm, and sally forth to see a friend of his at the House, or B.N.C., or some other college. Finding the first one out or his "oak sported," he makes his way to the next friend whom he finds in, and sits with him until Big Tom begins to boom out his 101 strokes from the tower of Christ Church. Then there is a scurrying of feet, the conscientious ones trying to get back to their college before the hundred and first stroke tolls out. But our undergraduate is in no such hurry ; if he gets back before ten or shortly after he does not mind. The usual fine for not being in after nine is usually one penny, after ten twopence, after eleven sixpence, after twelve—well, a fine does not meet the case. He certainly is fined, but the fine by no means ends the matter, but results in a summons to the Dean and a demand for an explanation on the following morning.

## Things Seen in Oxford

Our undergraduate at length takes himself off, but as he has not brought his gown it behoves him to keep an open eye for any official, usually disclosing a wide shirt front, and wearing a black gown with velvet round the sleeves, known as a Proctor or "Prog.," accompanied by three men, one of whom is the marshal, the other two "bull-dogs." Unfortunately he is not wary enough, for suddenly he hears footsteps behind him, and a man comes up with the Proctor's compliments and he would like to speak to him. He looks round and sees a little group on the opposite side of the road. The Proctor raises his hat and desires to call his attention to the fact that the undergraduate has not his gown with him after dark, and that he has, moreover, detected him with a pipe in his mouth, filled with the obnoxious *herba nicotiana*, expressly forbidden by the statutes of the University. He is requested to call on the Proctor at nine o'clock next morning, at his rooms, we will say, at Merton.



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

### SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN'S SUNDIAL

In All Souls' College. It has the Latin motto "Pereunt et Imputantur."



## An Undergraduate's Day

He knocks in at a quarter past ten, and the porter puts his name down for a fine corresponding to that hour. He goes up to his rooms, turns up his lamp, and after making some coffee, probably settles down for an hour or two of reading before turning in, or he may try his luck at any of the rooms of his friends on the same or another staircase.

The New Theatre is now a safe place of amusement, and is patronized by Dons and undergraduates alike. First-class London companies visit the town, so that had the undergraduate chosen to go there, he might have done so without the fear of pains and penalties.



## EXPENSES AT OXFORD





## CHAPTER VII

### EXPENSES AT OXFORD

THERE has been from time to time a good deal of controversy about the expenses at Oxford. Prices do certainly rule somewhat higher there than in the majority of other places. It is said that expenses are increasing, but the same may be said of any other place in the United Kingdom. The question of the scale of expenditure is one that concerns the man himself; it is mainly a matter of temperament. A careful man would live comfortably on a sum that would be penury to another man, so that it is very difficult to lay down any strict rule; but this much may be said, that a young man's expenses at Oxford are pretty much the same as his expenses would be anywhere else. Of course there are certain expenses which do not vary, and which

## Things Seen in Oxford

must be met—namely, the University and college fees. The college fees vary somewhat according to the college. The careful man will live, and live comfortably, on £200 a year, and, in certain cases, even on £150 or £160, while another man would require £300 or £400.

As a rule, college authorities keep an eye on the expenditure of the undergraduate members of the college. A weekly bill, called a "Battel's" bill, is usually sent in to each member, and if beyond a reasonable amount, very probably it passes under the scrutiny of the Dean or tutor; but of course this only refers, and can only refer, to college expenses. What he spends privately is naturally no affair of the college. It has been said that tradespeople encourage students to run up bills. Whatever this may have been in the past, I do not think that this is generally the case. The tradespeople there, as elsewhere, naturally like cash payments, although if they see a reasonable



*Photo, Laund*

**A ROOM IN COLLEGE.**

These rooms are comfortably furnished and are frequently oak-paneled to the ceiling. The bars outside the window are placed there not so much to keep out intruders as to keep in the occupant.

*Oxford.*



## Expenses at Oxford

prospect of being paid for their goods at the end of one term or the beginning of the next, they will as a rule make no objection ; but the times when a man occupied three years in running up bills and the rest of his life in paying them off have happily gone by. Many tradesmen now make a liberal discount for cash. It may be remarked here that the college authorities have nothing to do with tradesmen's bills ; if the undergraduate runs up bills with them, it will probably end in a three-cornered arrangement between himself, his father or guardian, and the tradesman.

Naturally the undergraduate will find his expenses at the beginning rather heavy ; it is somewhat similar to investing capital. For instance, he will have to pay to his college an entrance fee of about £5. Caution-money will also have to be paid to a college, which as a rule varies from £25 to £40. Commoners pay a higher sum than scholars, who in some cases pay none

## Things Seen in Oxford

at all, their scholarship-money being sufficient security. Caution-money is a sum deposited with the college as security against possible loss; in fact, it is a precaution against the non-payment of the terminal charges. This caution-money remains on the books until the undergraduate takes his degree, when a portion of it is refunded, and the rest is returned to him when he takes his name off the books. Instead of having this money returned to him, however, he may "compound" in one lump sum, in which case his name remains on the books for good without any further money being paid. "Compounding" is a University matter, and cannot be done until the degree of M.A. has been taken. The fee is now £15, having recently been reduced. This covers both University and college dues. The initial expenses are pretty high. For instance, he in all probability will have to buy furniture for his rooms at an official valuation. Many colleges, however, have a



**SHELLEY'S ROOM AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.**  
This is now used as a Common Room.



*Photo, Taunt*

**WESLEY'S ROOM, LINCOLN COLLEGE.**

*Oxford.*

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist connexion, was a Fellow of this college, and the rooms which he occupied are between the first and second quadrangles.





## Expenses at Oxford

good system of renting out rooms ready furnished, which obviates any discontent that an outgoing tenant may feel that his property has been undervalued, or an incoming tenant that he has been imposed upon. He will also, in all probability, have to purchase in the town all his crockery, linen, and odds and ends, unless he buys them from the outgoing tenant. His scout may try and sell him things, but it is well to be sure they are his to sell.

There is also a matriculation fee of £2 10s. to be paid when he goes before the Vice-Chancellor shortly after he goes up. It is very advisable that he should join most of the best societies and clubs if he can afford it, but certainly he should belong to the Union, whose annual subscription is £3 15s. or £10 10s. for life. He will naturally wish to support his college clubs, notably boating, cricket, football, athletics, and music, or at any rate, if not all, some of these. There are, too, examination fees, which will vary

## Things Seen in Oxford

according to his application to his books, or the reverse. These, of course, all make considerable in-roads into his allowance. The fact, too, of paying his own travelling expenses and keeping himself during the vac. will make a great difference in the estimate on what he ought to live, so that it is impossible to lay down any strict rule as to the scale of expenditure. If he is in the fortunate position of having gained a scholarship or exhibition ranging from £60 to £100, this may alter to some extent his manner of living.

At the end of his career there are further additional expenses in the way of fees to the University and college when taking his degree. His scout will extort £1 for putting on his hood. Men have been known to take back with them potatoes, cheeses, etc., in the praiseworthy attempt to reduce their expenses. However laudable the attempt, and much as their courage is to be admired, it is not a practice to be commended; it lowers his dignity in the eyes of his scout.

## SOCIAL LIFE



## CHAPTER VIII

### SOCIAL LIFE

**A**LTHOUGH a degree is a very desirable thing, and is the primary object of a three or four years' residence at a University, it is not the be-all and end-all of a man's training there. He goes up to Oxford not merely to get as good a degree as he can, but what is perhaps more important, to form his character. This could never be attained by keeping himself aloof, or "smuggling," but by intercourse with his fellow-students. The strict line that once existed between undergraduates and Dons has been lessened very considerably in recent years. There is now a sympathy between the two; the Don is no longer looked upon as the enemy of the undergraduate, and this has

## Things Seen in Oxford

been brought about through various causes. Clubs and societies now exist in greater variety than heretofore, to suit all men of all temperaments and inclinations, and the fact that Fellows who are married are now allowed to hold collegiate appointments has aided the change very much.

Provided an undergraduate is of an average gentlemanly type, he will receive many invitations to the houses of the married Dons, or the rooms of Fellows and tutors of his own college. If he happens to be a public-school man, it is very probable that second or third year men belonging to his old school may procure the *entrée* to many places denied at first to those who are not so fortunately placed.

If he comes up with a reputation already made in athletics, there again his course will be easy. Lectures, too, are an important factor in this respect, for now that the inter-collegiate system of lectures has been so widely established, men mix with each



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**ADDISON'S WALK, MAGDALEN COLLEGE.**

A delightful avenue of trees running along one of the branches of the River Cherwell, said to have been a favourite walk of Addison's.





## Social Life

other to a greater degree than they used to. Formerly it was possible for a man to pass his three years knowing very few except members of his own college; but the inter-collegiate system now obliges men of one college to rub shoulders with those of another, and so it is probable that some intimacy will arise between them.

Invitations to afternoon tea with anchovy toast, cake, and biscuits is the usual function at which the "fresher" is introduced to his fellow-undergraduates. Coffee after "hall" is another excellent means of getting to know each other.

As for the clubs, rowing takes precedence. It may be that a college has not shown a single man in a first class of the schools for years; but if it is top of the river, its position, at any rate socially, is good. Not only is the river a common meeting-place of members from all colleges, but it is the centre of life and gaiety during the most beautiful part of the year, the Eights and

## Things Seen in Oxford

subsequent weeks—a period which terminates with Commemoration. Friends are asked up, and those of the opposite sex are eagerly welcomed. The barges are crowded, white dresses flutter, luncheons are arranged up river, friends are introduced, excursions are arranged, and laughter fills the air. The succeeding weeks are filled with balls, concerts, picnics, and any other forms of amusements that can be thought of, except for the unfortunate few who are sitting in the schools. The social feeling, too, is fostered by the fact of men training together for so many weeks with one object. It is the common practice, too, for others members of a college to give boating breakfasts to the Torpid or the Eight, at which both boating and non-boating men gather.

Cricket, though not to such an extent as rowing, does its share to bring the members of the college or the University into contact. The game, however, in this respect is more restricted; as a rule a cricketer is not made

## Social Life

at the University; he goes up ready-made, and with a reputation, whereas many boating coaches prefer a man who has never handled an oar before, so that there is no bad style to eradicate before he is taught that of the University. This, of course, leads to exclusiveness in the case of cricket, which tends to become more of a set, and there is not the same interest taken in it as in the other sport.

Again, each college has several clubs of its own, more or less in number, to which most of the members belong; also a junior common room, in which papers may be read and letters written. There is a debating club, I suppose, in every college, musical societies in the large musical colleges, athletic, football clubs, and so forth. All these tend to bring the members of the college into intimate contact.

The Union, too, is a great meeting-place for men of all colleges, opinions, inclinations, and temperaments. Here they may hear a

## Things Seen in Oxford

debate on any question that is agitating the nation. They may lounge in the smoking-room reading a book, with pipe in mouth and a cup of coffee by their side, or may play a game of billiards with a friend.

During the first term the freshman will most probably receive many calls from the older members of the college, although these calls consist in making sure that the freshman is out, and then leaving a card on his table. The freshman is, unfortunately for himself, expected to return that call, and to keep on calling until he finds the other man in. It would never do for him to return the call merely by leaving his "paste-board." After that invitations to breakfast or lunch will probably follow. Etiquette, however, varies considerably. Some colleges are very easy-going, and a respectable "fresher" will probably be on fairly intimate terms with senior men by the end of a term.

Afternoon tea is a form of social intercourse which did not obtain many years ago;



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

#### A CITY WALL BASTION.

This bastion stands in the grounds of New College, and is a remnant of the strong fortifications which at one time made Oxford impregnable.



## Social Life

wines were then the thing, but happily the custom has to a great extent died out, and any excess is looked upon as bad form.

The "hall" is another important factor in the social life. In some colleges it is compulsory, but optional in others. Some men prefer to meal by themselves, but this is a bad habit, as it keeps a man aloof, and estranges him from his fellow-members.

There are now a good many University clubs whose object is literature, art, music, the drama, and so forth, which bring men together and act the part of social grindstones. The O.U.D.S. has been the nursery of many of our leading actors.





## SPORTS



## CHAPTER IX

### SPORTS

**T**HERE is hardly any form of sport in which the undergraduate may not engage, and, if he shows any great proficiency, may get his blue, full or half. Of all the sports rowing is, and always has been, pre-eminent. For years it was the only sport in which a man might get his blue. It used to be said that brains and muscles could not be found in the same individual, but experience has shown that they get on excellently together. One has only to run through the list of old "blues," whether boating, cricket, football, or any other, and follow their careers to see how many have attained to the highest position in the Church, at the

## Things Seen in Oxford

Bar, or in any of the other learned professions.

A man's rowing career usually begins with the Fours, or College races rowed in four-oared boats. These are time races, not bumping races like the Torpids or Eights. After some preliminary but not very severe training, the Fours are rowed towards the end of the October term. During this term the University crews practise their trial races preparatory to the trial race and final selection of the crew for the boat-race next term, and all college boats must give way to it. The rhythmic thud of the oars in the 'Varsity boat is music to the soul of the rowing man. The next term—Lent term—is devoted to the Torpids. These are eight-oared racing boats, of a heavier build than the eights, and distinguished from them by having fixed seats. The week during which the Torpids are rowed is a week of excitement and activity. The floods may be out and the towing-path may be in places sub-



*Photo, Taunt*

#### THE EIGHTS.

These are bumping races; each boat tries to overtake and bump the preceding boat, when their positions are reversed for the next race. In this illustration the second boat has just been bumped.

*Oxford.*



## Sports

merged, but that does not deter the enthusiastic follower of his college boat from plunging through each pool or puddle and getting soaked to the skin.

These races are bumping races—that is to say, each boat, except the head boat in each division, endeavours to overtake and bump the boat in front. The head boat, however, has merely to endeavour to retain its position. The boats start from Iffley, and are placed one behind the other, with a boat's length between each two boats, and are kept in their position by the coxswain, who holds a rope attached to the bank. The warning gun is fired one minute before the start; as the second gun goes off, eight blades in so many boats splash simultaneously into the water. The towing-path becomes a surging mass of humanity yelling encouragements, ringing bells, turning rattles, and, in fact, making all the noise it can, in the belief that it is encouraging its own crew, and helping it to victory. The probability is that

## Things Seen in Oxford

each member of the crew is quite oblivious of all the noise, all his attention being fixed on the work in hand, and his eyes glued to the spine of the man in front of him.

There are certain parts of the river which are notoriously somewhat difficult for the long racing boats to navigate, notably that part known as the "Gut," and here it is that many bumps take place. One boat gradually creeps up to the other, and slightly overlaps it; the cox pulls the string, and the boat makes an attempt to bump. This may be frustrated by the cox in the first boat turning on the rudder hard, and so causing a wave, which washes the bow of the pursuing boat away for the time being; this is, however, the refuge of the destitute. The next attempt will probably prove successful. The cox in the bumped boat throws up his hand, both boats cease rowing, and gently paddle out of the way of the succeeding boats. There may be two, three, or four





*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

### DRAKE'S CHAIR.

A chair made from the wood of Drake's vessel, *The Golden Hind*,  
in the Bodleian.



## Sports

divisions, and the head boat of each division except the first becomes "sandwich" boat—that is to say, it rows twice, once at the head of its division—in which case all it has to do is to keep its position—and once as the last boat in the higher division, when its endeavour is to bump the boat in front of it.

The Eights are rowed in the summer term, and the Eights Week and succeeding weeks are given over to concerts, dances, luncheons, and picnics. The Eights are rowed in pretty much the same way as the Torpids, except that the crews are not the same, with individual exceptions, for a man may be good enough for the Torpid, but not for the Eight; and the boats are not the same, being more lightly built, and with sliding seats. No one who has rowed in an Eight may row in a Torpid the following year.

The evening of the last day of the races is usually made hideous by shouts and noises, vocal and instrumental, of jubilant members

## Things Seen in Oxford

of such colleges as have gone up three or four places.

For those who do not possess either the stamina or energy required for racing, there is always the dinghy, a pair, canoe, or punt, in which he may paddle or pole about to his heart's content by himself or with a friend. For such people the Upper River is the most suitable place; there they are out of the way of strenuous workers, and can go how and where they please, or he may lazily make his way up the Cherwell—known as the “Char”—through Magdalen Bridge, in a punt or Canadian canoe.

During the winter months Oxford, lying so low, is invariably flooded, and Port Meadow makes a capital sheet of water for rowing or centre-boarding, and many a luckless wight, when overturned by a gust of wind, has had to splash his way to the bank for many yards. The pull up to Godstow and back makes a nice little trip for those who are not too fond of exertion.

## Sports

Cricket was the next game to earn its blue. Most of the cricket-grounds are situated in Cowley Road, but the University cricket-ground is very pleasantly placed in the park, and is open to all.

Rugby, or "Rugger," and "Soccer" have both gained their blues, and these have been followed by other games, until golf has been added. Whether it is advisable to keep multiplying the blues is a point with which we have nothing to do here.

Blues are divided into two classes—"full" and "half"; rowing, cricket, football, and athletics, fall into the first category, while other sports of minor importance are in the second.

Swimming may be indulged in at Parson's Pleasure, a pretty part of the Cherwell, on the east side of the Parks.

The University running ground is situated in Cowley Road, where budding "blues" may practise, and where the University sports are held.

## Things Seen in Oxford

There are courts for racquets, lawn-tennis, and fives, and there is a good gymnasium in Alfred Street. From the above it will be seen that the undergraduate, unless he is a confirmed and irreclaimable loafer, ought never to have an unoccupied moment.

## EXAMINATIONS





## CHAPTER X

### EXAMINATIONS

AS a man feelingly remarked, "If it were not for the beastly examinations, life at Oxford would be enjoyable." But examinations are compulsory, unfortunately for some, and the authorities, after repeated failures, are apt to make rude and personal remarks, and, in extreme cases, to request the removal of the gentleman's name from the college books.

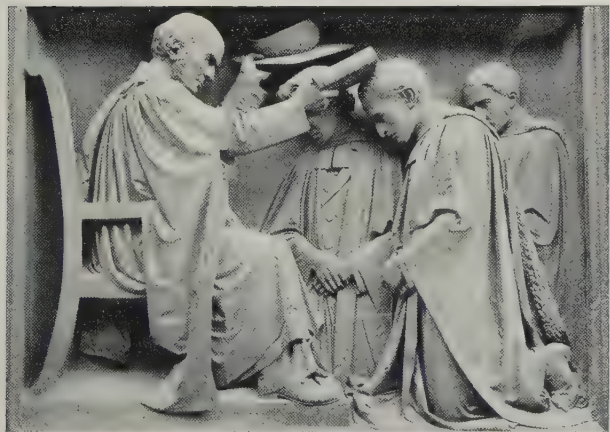
There are three examinations to be passed before one can take one's degree—namely, Responsions or "Smalls," Moderations or "Mods.," and Greats. For some reason or other, Smalls, or Responsions, do not count as a public examination, although it appears to be just as public as any of the

## Things Seen in Oxford

others. "Mods." is known as the first public examination, and "Greats," or the final examination, as the second. All the examinations are now held in what are called the New Examination Schools; before 1882 they were held in the old Divinity School. In the old Divinity School, being part and parcel of the Bodleian Library Buildings, no heating apparatus has been allowed to be installed, consequently, although in summer the coolness of the place must have been very grateful, in the winter the cold must have made things very uncomfortable.

"Smalls" consist of an examination in certain books of Latin and Greek authors, arithmetic, algebra, and Euclid. These are subjects that any well-educated boy, from any fairly good school, should pass without any difficulty. After the writing work comes the *viva voce* part of the examination.

The *viva voce* is a survival of the times when the candidate obtained his degree by



*Photo, Taunt*

*Oxford.*

**CARVINGS ON THE NEW SCHOOLS.**

*A viva voce examination.*

*Conferring degrees.*



## Examinations

oral disputation with three opponents, whom he was allowed to choose himself from among his boon companions. These examinations were looked on as trials of wit, and were open to the public. So, at the present day, the *viva* examiners are three in number; so, too,\* a "gallery" is provided for those interested in the intellectual squirming of an unhappy examinee under the academical harrow. This is a remnant of medieval procedure. The examinee will not know the result until he has gone down, but he will leave instructions that the result shall be forwarded to him as soon as possible, either by the penny post, or, if anxious to terminate the suspense, by a prepaid telegram left at the schools.

"Mods.," or Moderations, is the intermediate examination, and is divided into Pass Mods., Honour Mods. in classics, and Honour Mods. in mathematics. Classical Mods. has become much harder of late years, for, whereas certain portions of Latin and

## Things Seen in Oxford

Greek authors were appointed, now they are taken as a whole, and the examination is looked upon by most as one in unseen classics.

For Greats there is a very great variety of choice; specialists in knowledge are increasing, consequently the number of schools is increasing likewise to keep pace with the specialists. Honour Greats comprises more or less the whole of the classical authors, philosophy, history, etc. For Pass Greats there is a variety of choice, although certain subjects, such as classics, are obligatory.

On the morning of the examination, one may see a crowd of men in black coats, white ties, and, of course, cap and gown, lounging in or about the hall of the schools, some affecting an ease which may arise either from confidence or indifference, while others are obviously nervous; mature years, to whom a "plough" would be nothing short of a catastrophe; beardless youth, to whom it means nothing more than a wiggling from

## Examinations

his tutor, and possibly another from his father; and last, but by no means least in importance, that product of the higher education of recent years—*innuptæ puellæ*—all mingle together, more or less anxiously awaiting the summons to the examination-room.





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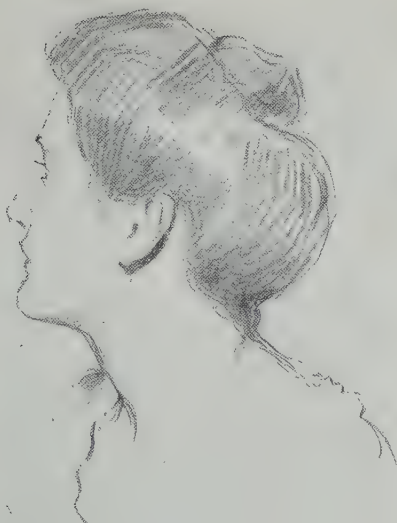
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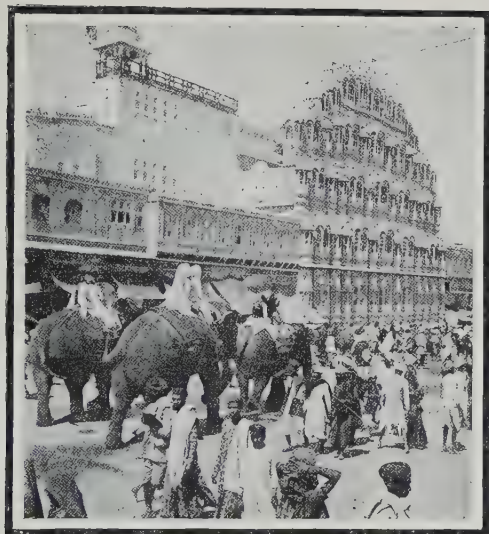
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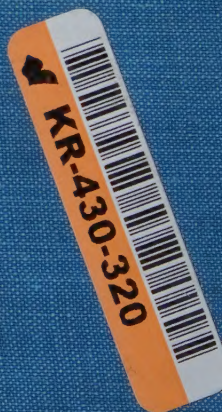
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